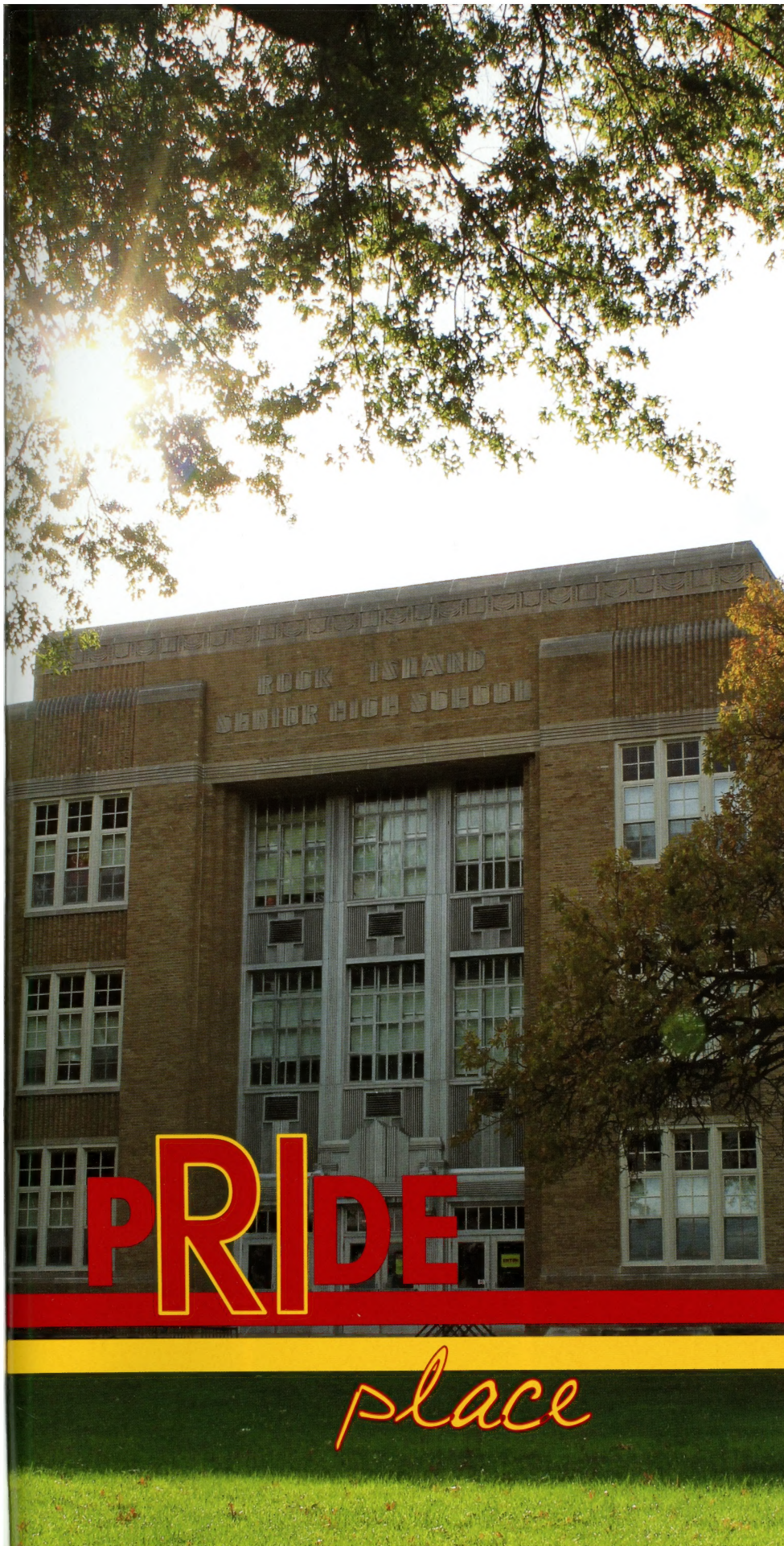


P

DE

place



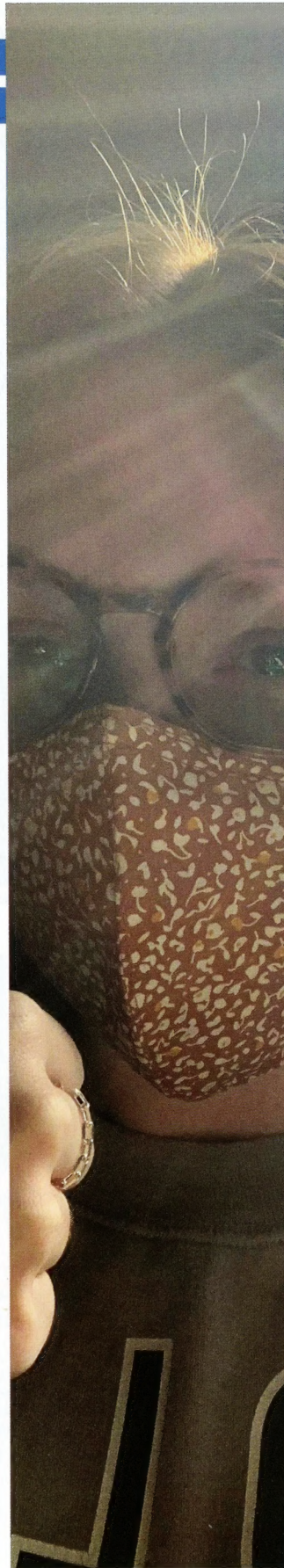
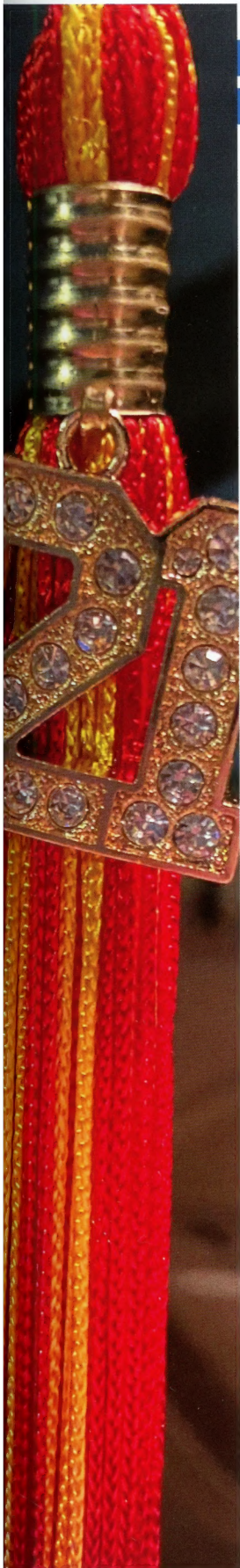


It is easy to connect the places that mean so much to us Rocks with our school pride. We see our stadium, our athletic courts, our music rooms, and our classrooms, and we can't help but remember the iconic high school memories we have there. We watch the football team run onto the field, as the marching band plays and the cheerleaders cheer with the student section. We can see our student section rushing the court after our basketball team wins a game. We can see our music and drama programs perform with pride in our auditorium. We can even see ourselves waiting until the last minute to leave our cars and walk into Circle Drive with our friends, as school starts. The images that are so tied to our days as Rocks are a bit different this year. But through this, we have learned that Rocky pride does not belong to one place. Our pride reaches beyond our stadium, athletic fields, and classrooms. Our pride matters now, more than ever. While Rocky is our home, we have learned this year that Rocky pride transcends place, and can exist anywhere that we are.

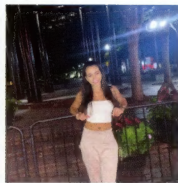
ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL

ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL





Senior year, the last year of high school. Seniors look forward to their last Homecoming Week, Senior Skip Day, Prom, and most importantly, graduation. But this year was very different. Seniors had a rocky start, with no Homecoming Week, no Senior Skip Day, no Prom, and some nontraditional experiences of a Rocky senior. The beginning of senior year did not go as planned due to the pandemic, but it's a year we will all remember, from the fun desk at home, to the cool and stylish masks we made, this is our last goodbye to the Rock, which just looks a bit different. We will leave Rocky this spring, to start our new paths, whether those are college or a career, and we will make new memories and new dreams, but we will never forget what Rocky did for us. Rocky gave us pride, taught us how to be great, and taught us to teach others and to share love and happiness with others. No matter where we are in the world, we will always have Rocky pride. And, no matter where we spent our senior year, whether it was at home or at school, we still have pride in the Rocky we love.



Natalia Gabriel-
"Was this due at 11:59, too?"

Emiy Bush-
"Isn't it funny how, day by day, nothing changes, but when you look back, everything is different?"
- C.S. Lewis



Charly Heber-Spates-
"We have nothing to lose but our chains."
- Assata Shakur, Karl Marx

JaRaya Carr-
"Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak."
- Alan Dundes



Emma Widick-
"And this is the part where you find out who you are."



Andrea Rangel-
"Life is short... so am I."



Ella Spence-
"Mom, I am a rich man."
- Cher



Emily Pearson-
"That was nothing like High School Musical."



Natella Alieva-
"Spend a little more time trying to make something of yourself, and a little less time trying to impress people."



Alyssa Groothaert-
"Four years later, and I look the same."



Jacob Voigt-
"I learned a while back that if I do not text 911, people do not return my texts."
- Michael Scott



Amarah Priddy-
"You are only as real as the people you surround yourself with."



Lainey Benson-
"Haters are my motivators."



Ani Walrath-
"The senior quote was due today?"



Ellie Cupp-
"I knew exactly what to do, but in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do."



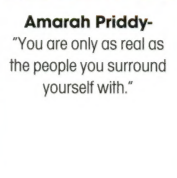
Rachel Loomis-
"Forget a breakup, y'all ever been to school with no headphones?"



Hannah Close-
"The Office, Season 6, episode 26, 15 minutes and 23 seconds"



James Walls-
"Maintain your sanity."



Chloe Killian-
"You got to learn to love yourself, because in this world, that's the realest love you'll ever get."
- Kendrick Lamar



Jackson Hansen-
"Go outside."



Senior Words of Wisdom



Keaton Adams
Griselda Aguirre
Terrell Akers
Miguel Alba
Natella Alieva
Ysabella Almanza
Alayna Amidon

Aaron Anderson
Jaerica Anderson
Raymond Anderson
Francisco Andrade
Kameron Andrews
Juan Arreguin-Cardenas
Tabitha Ashpaugh

Migambi Athanas
Kairee Atwater
Jaydrien Bailey
Calvin Banks
Emiliano Barrera
Trevor Beckman
Kathleen Bellinger

Lainey Benson
Karolina Bergheger
Aubry Berry
Silas Best
Samuel Bishop
Eleanor Blew
Isaac Boswell

CHARACTER COUNTS

Students Explain Their
Favorite Throwback
Cartoons.



"My favorite cartoon character was Hobbes from the classic story book *Calvin and Hobbes*. I grew up constantly reading these books, and the crazy and wild adventures of Calvin and his imaginary friend."

Calvin Banks

"Bling Bling Boy from Johnny Test. He reminds me of myself: trying and failing, over and over again."

Benjamin Samuelson



"My favorite was Dory from *Finding Nemo*. She never failed to make me laugh & put a smile on my face."

Emily Pearson



"My favorite was Lilo and Stitch, when they would have episodes, I would watch it every day before I went to grade school."

Maura Chandler

Logan Boyle
Tyler Bragg
Logan Braun
Jaylen Breackenridge
Emily Brown
Jaylen Brozovich
Itangishatse Bujeni



Jamere Burrage
Emily Bush
Zariah Cade
Ashlynn Canfield
Keegan Carnahan
Makenna Carothers
JaRaya Carr



Eduardo Carrillo
Kayleigh Cassatt
Payton Cassidy
Cesar Castaneda
Selena Caudillo
Carlos Cervantes
Yesaya Chan



Maura Chandler
Adam Chaney
Rosanna Cisneros
LaMiracle Clay
Hannah Close
Nicholas Coffman
Carson Conger



FUTURE *educators* @ THE ROCK





Ashlee Conner
D'Leyah Conner
Lucas Cook
Nibitanga Cornelio
Niyonkuru Cornelio
Ntiranyibagira Cornelio
Jafet Cruz

Ty Culver
Elizabeth Cupp
Austin Dahlgren
Cassidy DeMeyer
Mason Detert
Brayden Diaz
Leticia Dominguez

Avery Donaldson
Kiley Douglas
Asha Doukoure
Isabel Drish
Colby Dyer
Jace Elerick
Evan Elliott

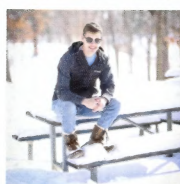
Riley Ellis
Marissa Ethington-Hart
Renee Farmer
Brooklynn Farrance
Joseph Ferguson
Austin Fisher
Jacob Fleuter

Lessons Learned at the Rock



"I shouldn't take myself too seriously. Life is about having a good time with people you love. That's the only thing that matters."

Tiffany O'Leary



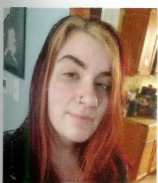
"A lesson I've learned from being a senior at Rocky is that strong friendships are key, no matter someone's background."

Calvin Banks



"I learned that not everything is handed to you. You gotta work for what you want. No matter what, you gotta push yourself."

Ben Samuelson



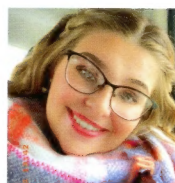
"You don't need to know everything about your future right away. It's better to go at your own pace, instead of stressing yourself out."

Emma Long



"Things can always change, and very quickly, as well."

Alisia Sarver



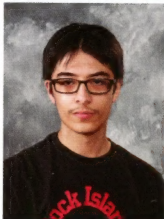
"I have learned to just always be yourself, and don't let what other people think bother you. Just be you, and feel comfortable in your own skin."

Kaylea Roessler

Vanessa Flores
Niyogushima Florette
Brody Ford
Marai Frometa
Natalia Gabriel
Kyle Gant
Donovan Garro



Paw Gay
Shakira'a Gbenyo
Demetrius Gilkey
Noe Gonzalez
Albany Gray
Pharoah Gray
Jalie Green



Alyssa Groothaert
Meeya Guerrero
Corbin Gustafson
Joshua Guy
Jackson Hansen
Julian Harris
Quinn Harty



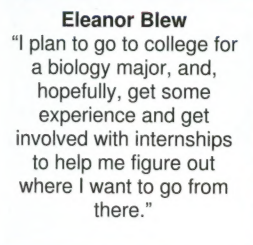
OUTSIDE OUR WALLS



Benjamin Samuelson
"I plan to go to college and study mathematics and high school education. Also, play soccer all 4 years."



Emma Widick
"I am planning on attending Black Hawk to complete my general education courses, and then transferring to a larger school to get a degree in elementary education."



Eleanor Blew
"I plan to go to college for a biology major, and, hopefully, get some experience and get involved with internships to help me figure out where I want to go from there."



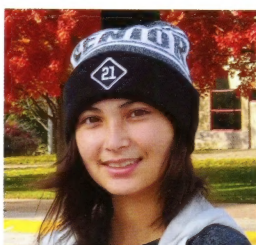
Audrey Seams
"I am going to be doing online college for teaching."



Sher Lei
"My plans after high school are to go to a college/university that's near my home to study something in the medical field."



Brooke Farrance
"As of now, my plans are to go to college (I'm still trying to find the right one), and I want to have a career in teaching. I'm still deciding whether I want to teach elementary or high school."



CLASS OF



Carenn Hayes
Tia Hearn
Charly Heber-Spates
Mason Hedburg
George Henderson
Kyle Hendricks
Emily Hernandez



Jesus Hernandez
Maribel Herrera Lopez
Ethan Hinds
Delaney Hoing
Valerie Holland
Corbin Hollars
Ashondria Holmes



Addison Holub
Gabrielle Horton
Bernard Howard
Reese Hoyer
Spae Htway
Austyn Hulsey
Ian Hussey

Senior Careers

Then vs. Now



Jonathan Knuth
"As a child, I wanted to be a teacher. Now, my future plans include becoming a physical therapist."



Jaerica Anderson
"I wanted to be a teacher, but now I want to be a marine biologist."



Emily Hernandez
"I always wanted to be a doctor. I am not too sure about that now."

Albany Gray
"As a kid, I wanted to be a teacher, but when I told my dad, he said, 'No, be a lawyer,' and since I like to argue, I chose lawyer."



Rachel Loomis
"When I was a kid, I wanted to be a cashier at Aldi's. Now, I want to be an engineer!"



Juan Pablo Ibarra
Emma Ingram
Armani Jack Hall
Jesse Jenkins
Kaiden Jenkins
Daniel Johnson
Raven Johnson



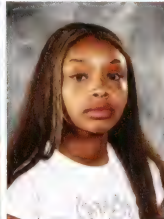
Ravon Johnson Taylor
Destani Jones
Julius Jones
MaKayla Jones
Ugeziwe Joseph
Irambona Jusele
Alex Kaalberg



Aisley Kask
Madison Keever
Gage Kelley
Isaiah Kerr
Andrew Kibling
Chloe Killian
Jonathan Knuth

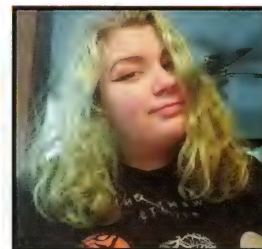
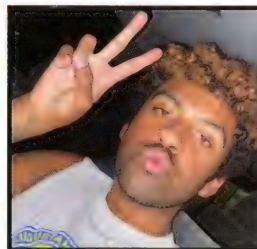


Chayanna Kraus
Ean Kress
Paw Krin
Victoria LaMay
Brooklynn Larson
Sher Lei



"THESE ARE THE DAYS

WE TRY TO RECREATE."



"If I could re-live a moment in high school, it would be Sectionals because we could fix our mistakes, and see what the outcome would be."

- Migambi Athanas

"If I could re-live a moment in high school, it would be from getting a good work out at cross country practice, then immediately going to marching band, and having fun with my friends late at night."

- Jonathan Knuth

"If I could re-live a moment in high school, it would be my freshman year Homecoming Assembly because it was the best one yet, and it really made me laugh."

- Avery Donaldson

"I wish that I could re-live Homecoming under the star back in 2018 because of how well decorated it was, and because it was the most fun I've had at a school event."

- Emma Long

"If I could re-live a moment in high school, it would be our big soccer game against Quincy at Conference."

- Isaiah Kerr



Connor Leistiko
December Lewis
Kerrigan Lewis
Manuel Limon
Justice Lockhart
Maung Loe
Mimembe Lolonga

Clevon Long
Emma Long
Rachel Loomis
Jennifer Lopez
Mason Love
Drake Lowry
JaQuon Lue

Dylan MacDonald
Neema Manasse
Janvier Maniragaba
David Marceleno-Robles
Asia Matthews-Miller
Abigail May
Logan McCarthy

T'Mariyona McCoy
Ella McKinley
Marte' McKinney
Eric Michaels
Jazmyn Miles
Brooke Miller

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

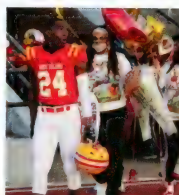
IN THE TIME OF COVID



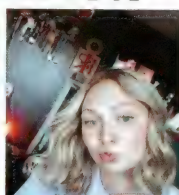
Jordan Rice
"I am furthering my career at the University of Illinois of Springfield because I feel like I will fit in really well with their basketball program."



Ella McKinley
"I chose Bryant because they have amazing academics, as well as athletics. I wanted a smaller school to really get a personal aspect of the swimming team."



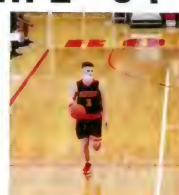
Perry Slater
"I plan to continue my athletic and academic career at Eastern Illinois University because, out of all my options, here is the best fit for me."



Lauren Weeks
"I am very excited to continue playing soccer at Black Hawk College and get into nursing."



Cole Rusk
"I decided to commit to Eastern Michigan because it really gives me the home feeling atmosphere."

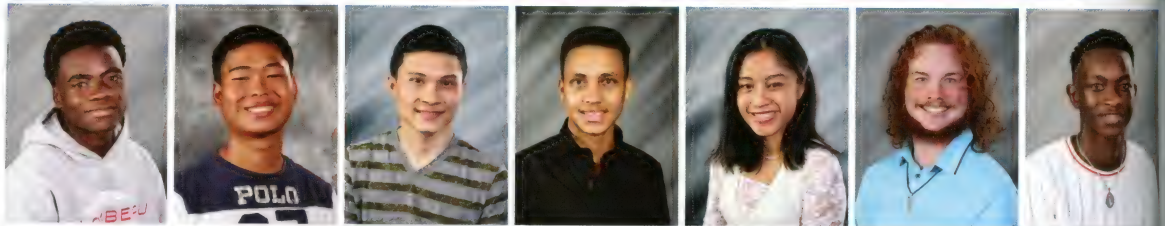


Colton Sigel
"Carthage College- It felt like home, also, the relationships with the coaches I built were really strong, and they treated me like a priority."



Tommy Smith
"I picked Concordia because after a few visits, it has really felt like home away from home. They treat me like family, and with respect, plus, I'll be right by the big city!"

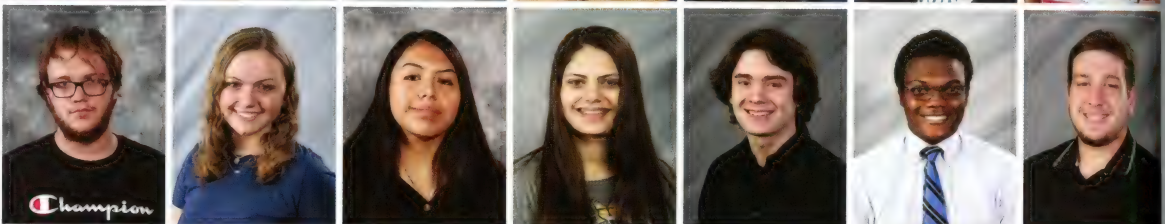
Alex Minani
Eh Moo
Ta Moo
Quinton Nettles
Bell New
Gabriel Nightingale
Prince Niyomugabo



Lytic Nolin
Alesia Nunez
Olufemi Ojelade
Tiffany O'Leary
Macy O'Mary
Matthew Patton
Lily Paw



Dylan Pearson
Emily Pearson
Ariana Perez
Arrika Perkins
Ayden Phares
Todd Poe
Jared Prather



Addison Price
Amarah Priddy
Ta'Nyha Pugh-Nimmers
Izabel Rade
Lizbeth Ramirez
Andrea Rangel
Demario Rankin



#SENIORS Play all Day

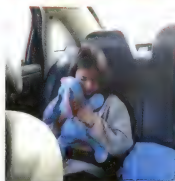
"My favorite toy was my American Girl doll. I was able to take it with me everywhere, and dress it up with matching outfits."

Maura Chandler



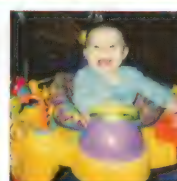
"My favorite toys were my Barbies and the doll house. I played with them all the time."

Brooklynn Farrance



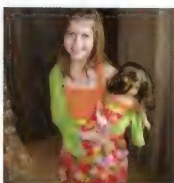
"My favorite toy was my Moon shoes. I loved playing with them when I was younger. I got them when I was 8, and I still play with them to this day."

JaRaya Carr



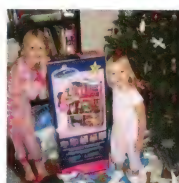
"My favorite toy was my baby doll. I would literally take her everywhere with me."

Kaylea Roessler



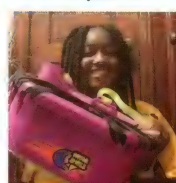
"My favorite toy was my motorcycle. I could run over everyone's toes without getting yelled at."

Ta'Nyha Pugh-Nimmers



"My favorite toy was my Blue's Clues stuffed animal. I always hated dolls and girly stuff."

Courtney Wixom



"My favorite toy was my bouncer. I always had fun whenever I was in it."

Emily Bush





Abbigale Rasmussen
Har Ree
Har Ju Ree
Noah Rettig
Jordan Rice
Madysen Richardson
Zaide Rivera

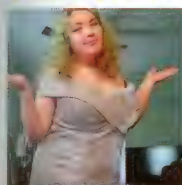
Wendy Rodriguez
Michael Roelens
Kaylea Roessler
Marriyon Rogers
Spiret Rogers
Kayla Rohr
Haylie Roos

Mbonigaba Rugagaza
Nasia Ruiz
Cole Rusk
Terrance Russell
Kaba Sakho
Natalia Salazar
Benjamin Samuelson

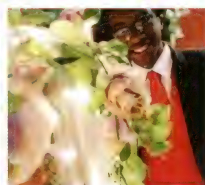
Johny San
Dominic Sanchez
Mya Sargeant
Alisia Sarver
Dominic Saucedo-Serra
Paw Say
Say Say

PROM 2020

Seniors reflect on what could have been when Prom was canceled due to COVID 19.



"It's such a bummer we couldn't have a prom. Hopefully, this school year ends on a better note."
- Emma Long



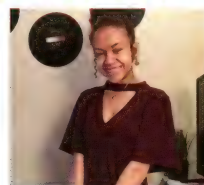
"I feel like it's not that big of a deal in the slightest, and that is how life beyond high school is. I get that it sucks, but I don't want to put myself or others at risk."
- Marte McKinney



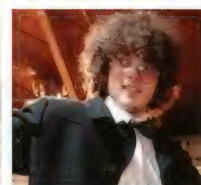
"It was going to be amazing. Everyone was going to look great. I wish I could have had that experience."
- Jaime Swisher



"It was a bummer hearing that prom was canceled."
- MaKayla Jones



"I'm upset about prom being canceled because I didn't get the chance to get all dressed up and have fun and take pictures with my friends and make memories."
- Kerrigan Lewis



"That night was going to be the peak of my high school career. I got all swagged out, months in advance. It makes me mad, but now I can say I've never been to a dance, and never will."
- Kyle Waggoner

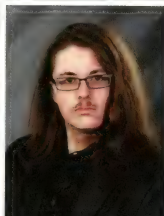
Darian Schavers
Anthony Schroeder
Emma Scott
Audrey Seams
Neveah Sedlak
Ni Shee
Samson Shukuru



Nora Sierra
Colton Sigel
Perry Slater
Kristina Smith
Myranda Smith
Tommy Smith
Allyson Smithson



Madeline Smutzer
Caitlin Sodeman
Hae Ku Soe
Thein Soe
Wah Eh Soe
James Sparks
Ella Spence



Ethan Sprague
Alexya Stephens
Sarah Stevanovic
Bobby Stewart
Devin Swift
Jaime Swisher
Trenton Syler



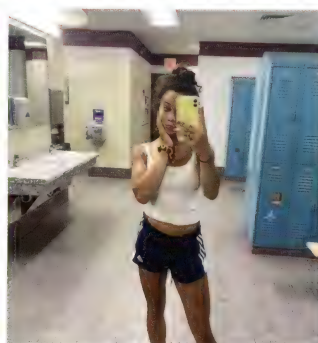
Til the time comes...



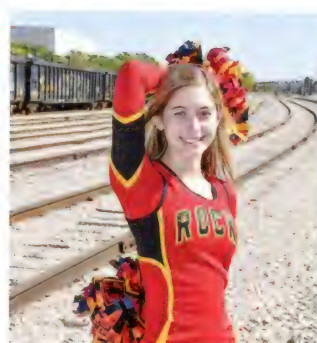
OF WAITING



"I just have to go to workouts and keep myself in shape, as well as encourage my team to do the same."
- Darrell Woodson



"I need to keep practicing hurdles so I can make the most of my season, especially because it's short."
- Natalia Gabriel



"Something that is making our postponed season better is that I will get to end the year doing something I love."
- Madison Keever



"I plan to continue playing indoor. Although it is not the same, it helps me remain active and prepared."
- Isaiah Kerr

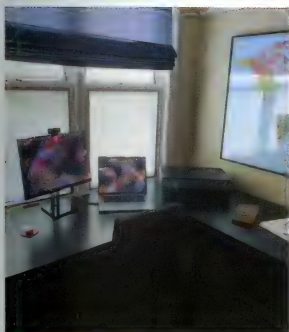


Mariyam Talybova
Taw Taw
Thomas Taylor
Johnnie Teague
Erin Teggatz
Ashley Testa
Eh Kler Tha

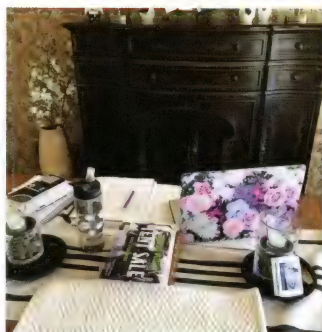
Siang Thang
Hay Law Lar Thaw
Min Thaw
Adriel Thomas
Abigail Thrap
Darion Upton
Maria Valverde-Yepez

Stephen Villarreal
Jacob Voigt
Kyle Waggoner
Paw Wah
Mackenzie Walker Lee
James Walls
Ani Walrath

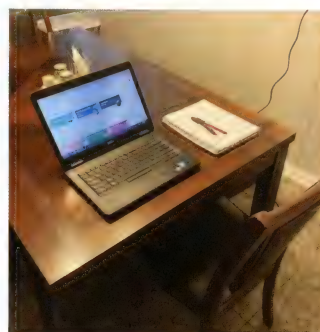
A NEW CLASS OF 2021 SET UP



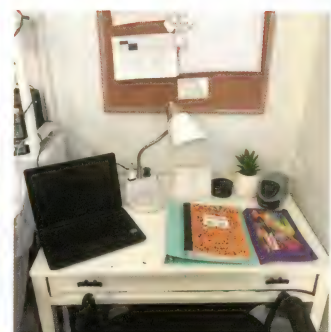
"The best part about my set up is the natural light that comes into my windows, and the amount of desk room that I have."
- Calvin Banks



"My favorite thing about this new set up is that I have lots of space, and I can eat or move whenever I want!"
- Eleanor Blew

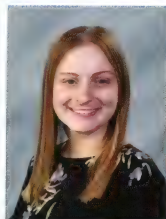


"My favorite thing about my school set up at home is that it is right under a light."
- Logan Wyers



"I like that I can customize the way my learning environment looks like!"
- Valerie Holland

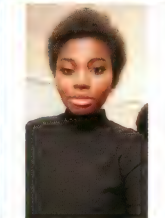
Rachel Wangler
Serah Waqa
Remonea Watson
Lauren Weeks
Emma Widick
Daymion Williams
Ethan Williams



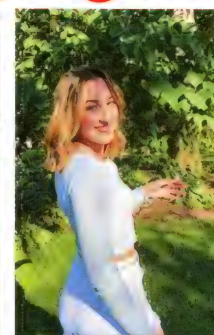
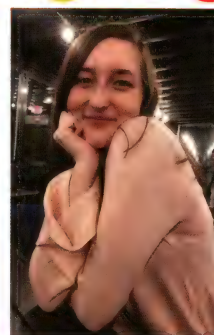
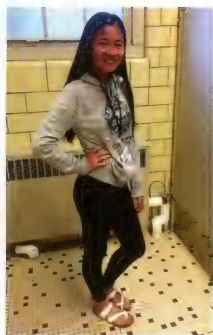
TyShawn Williams
Aaron Willis
San Da Win
Jamyah Winter
Darrell Woodson
Alivia Wright
Shay Wright



Logan Wyers
Ahishakiye Yvette
Blake Zahner
Christian Zepeda
Richard Zeroth



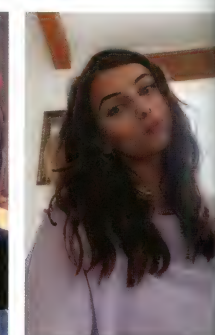
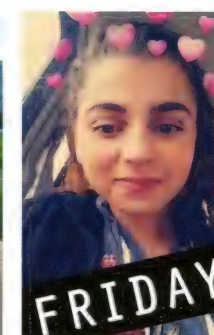
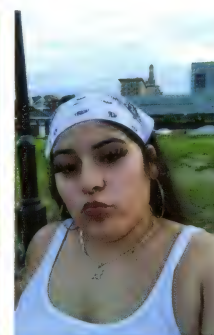
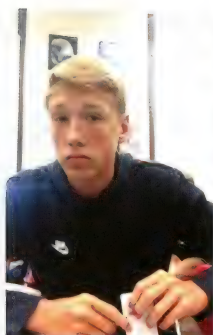
SENIOR GLOW



Say Say

Hannah Close

Avery Donaldson and Valerie Holland





Ella McKinley



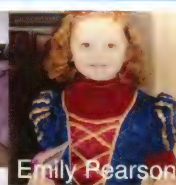
Laine Benson



Jonathan Knuth



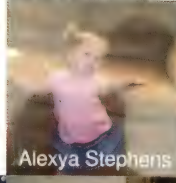
Alexya Stephens



Emily Pearson



Hannah Close



Alexya Stephens



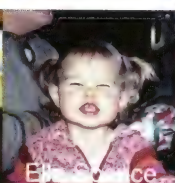
Maureen Keeney



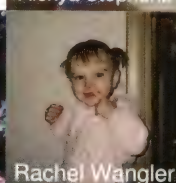
Jonathan Knuth



Jonathan Knuth



Emily Pearson



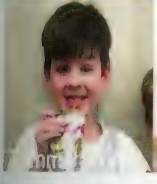
Rachel Wangler



Johnnie Teague



Cassidy DeMeyer



Jonathan Knuth



Spinel Rogers



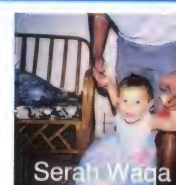
Maureen Keeney



Lauren Weeks



Alyssa Grobhaen



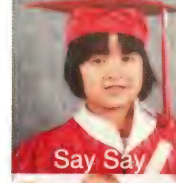
Sarah Waga



Colton Sigel



Hae Ku Soe



Say Say



Maureen Keeney



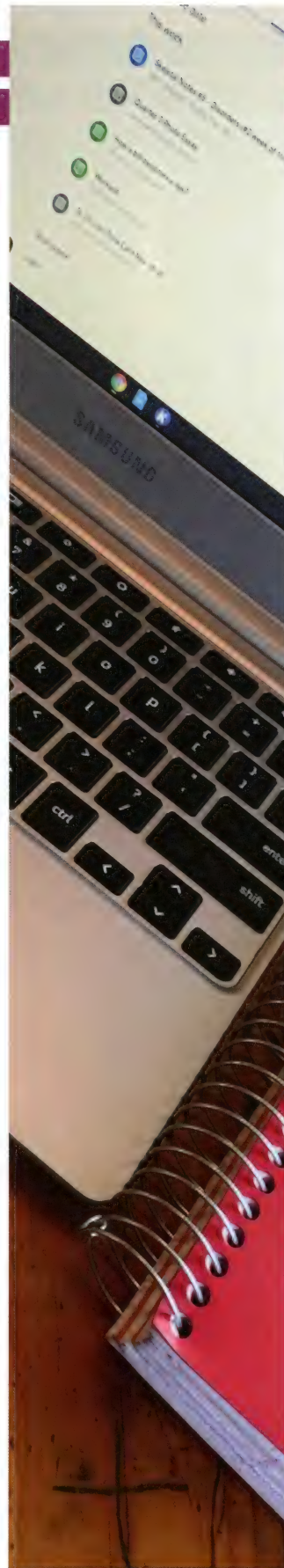
Natalia Gabri



Isaiah Kerr

PEBBLES to ROCKS





Junior year- Our first year as upperclassmen. It's the year we get to park in the main lot, play on the varsity team, and go to prom. This year, though, is a bit different for us all. Our first days back were at home on the computer, rather than in our classrooms with our friends. Our first year as upperclassmen saw our return to school in October, and then again in January. Some of our classmates are still at home for remote learning, and some of us are back for blended learning. Regardless of where we learn, we now have the opportunity to take more AP classes this year, and more electives. This year, we returned to sports. Our return included masks and some distance, but we still got the chance to compete for our school and with our teammates. Our junior year wasn't like the one we thought of during freshman and sophomore year, but it's definitely one we will remember. Despite the differences, we still had our school pride, the help from our teachers, and our friends to support us.

Benjamin Abell
Grace Adams
Elizabeth Aguilar
Murad Ahmed
Eliza Aleman
Wiba Alimasi
Emily Allison



Isabella Allison
Umar Alsamarai
Rodrigo Alvarado
Marieon Anderson
Colton Anderson-Bradley
Michelle Anglese
Ariana Anguiano



Marco Arredondo Lopez
Jason Arroyo Vasquez
Alexa Avalos
Hamidullah Barikzay
Kara Baumunk
Baker Beal
Zachary Beckman



Daniel Bejarano Gutierrez
Nyambanguka Benise
Ysabell Benton
Cameron Bergherger
Aoci Bernard
Christopher Bisubebo
Tyler Black



MULLET MOGULS

Q A

Why are Rocky's boys bringing back the mullet?



Mateo Pena
11

"It's very attractive, and it's a proven fact you are better at sports when you have one!"



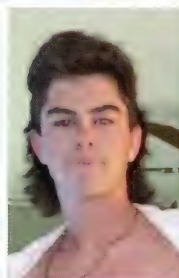
Eli Boeye
11

"Because we live by the saying, 'Business in the front, party in the back'."



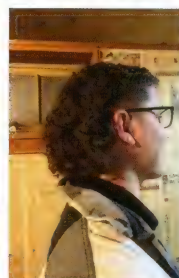
Brycen McGarry
11

"I got the first mullet because I thought it was cool, and then the whole friend group liked it, and decided they all wanted one."



Tommy Honeycutt
9

"The boys all had a mullet, so they convinced me to get one."



Calvin Larson
11

"I just wanted my hair to come out of the back of my helmet."



Conner Dilulio
9

"My cousin asked if I would get the same haircut as him, so I thought, 'Sure, why not.'"



Haley Blair
Abraham Blanco
Elian Blanco
Alanna Blasko
Elijah Boeye
Amiee Borchardt
Dameon Borders

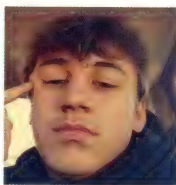
Olivia Bowman
Charlotte Boyer
Avery Brandt
Joshua Briggs
Mackenzie Brokaw
Calvin Brown
Sarrah Brown

Joseph Brune
Dayzion Bryson
Anthony Campbell
Kilaya Campbell
Kelly Canning
Tatiana Carapia
Austin Carlson

Caden Carroll
Anahi Castaneda
Donavin Caston
Consuela Chapman Casco
Madison Chastain
Brittney Colvin
Nevaeh Counts-Jones



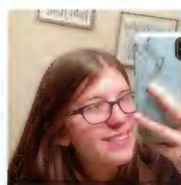
"It's hard, but manageable. There's a lot of changes that I had to get used to, but I'm just glad we are able to open."
Katie Kavanaugh



"It's not as bad as people think, and it does feel rough sometimes due to not wanting to be there, but it's worth it in the end because you are out and about."
Cohen Crawford

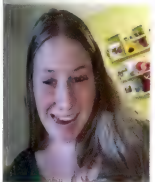


"I think working during a pandemic has really changed our normal protocols and stuff like that. Not only wearing masks, but how often we sanitize."
Mackenzie Kreger

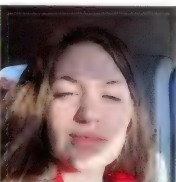


"It's interesting with the masks, and we always have to wear gloves doing certain things, but it's easier on the closers because we only have curbside."
Ashlie Heggen

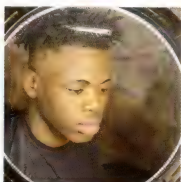
JUNIORS who are ESSENTIAL



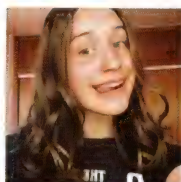
"I just started working at Walgreens, and we had to do things very differently because of Covid, and we have to clean a lot more."
Laci Hickenbottom



"Weird and difficult, at times. But honestly, not too bad. Every hour, we wash our hands, put on new gloves and masks, at all times."
Cassandra Engels



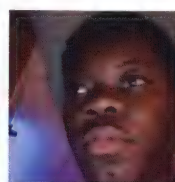
"It's on and off, but we tend to get slower since people try to stay home and social distance."
Aimee Iranyibutse



"It's very different working during a pandemic because there are a lot more safety precautions you have to take."
Abbie Roos



"It's a little harder, but it's mainly the same. We just try to keep us clean by washing our hands and wearing masks."
Edwin Beltran



"It's very different working during a pandemic. It's very busy, and as a worker, we have to make sure everything is sanitized and clean at every moment."
Aoci Bernard



"Working during a pandemic is always wearing a mask, having to wash your hands every 20 minutes, wearing gloves, even if you aren't handling food, and even sanitizing, as well."
Drew Jarding

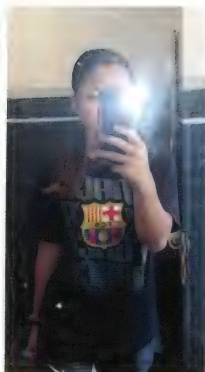
Ava Coussens
Cohen Crawford
Zaria Crider
Kenzie Crimmins
Kaniya Davis
Mallory Day
Andrew DeMarlie



Zachary DeMarlie
Cassidy DeMeyer
McCree DeVoss
Mason Dillard
Zabrian Dillin
Lisa Dominguez
Iradukunda Dorine



Colton Dorr
Anthony Doss
Isabel Drish
Victor Duarte
Adolphina Ebubu
Kairi Ehlers
Irakoze Emery

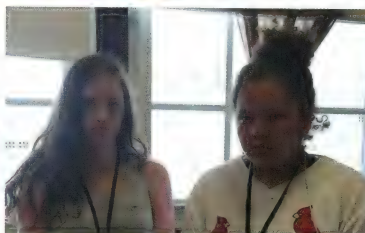
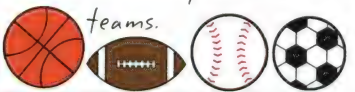


"My favorite professional sports team is Barcelona. I have liked them ever since I was around 7 years old. It is my favorite team because that is what got me to start doing soccer. My favorite player is Messi. My brother was a Rocky varsity soccer player, and he would always watch the team play, so I would watch along."

- Ywa Hay Paw

GO TEAM!

Juniors talk about their favorite pro

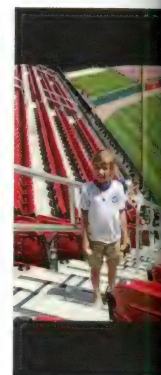


"My favorite professional sports team is the St. Louis Cardinals. I have liked them since I was 6 years old. I have grown up watching them, my whole life, ever since my dad showed me the team. My favorite player is Yadier Molina, who is #4 on the team. He is my favorite because he has been loyal to the team since 2003."

- Mallory Day

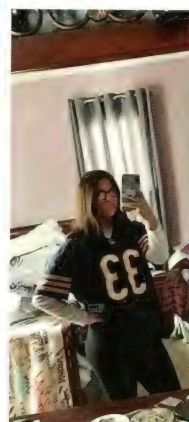
"My favorite professional sports team is the Chicago Cubs. I just grew up watching them and supporting them with my dad, ever since I was 4/5 years old. They have a loyal fan base, and they are a decently good team."

- Alaina Muller



"My favorite professional sports team is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. I like them because they are a stacked team, and my favorite player, Tom Brady, plays on the team. I liked the team ever since I was at the age of 7, and I have been a Tom Brady fan ever since."

- Hunter Straw-Lucas



"My favorite professional sports team is the Chicago Bears. I was around 4/5 when I first started being a fan. I like them because, sure, they may have their ups and downs, but they play very interesting games during their season. Both sides of my family have been with the team for a very, very long time, and have been fans."

- Ashlie Heggen



Ian Empen
Cassandra Engels
Glen Evans
Layla Eygabroad
Aden Farrell
Aleric Feighner
Georgi Feigley

Madelyn Fentress
Rebecca Ferguson
Amethyst Fidoe
Luis Flores
Crystal Fragogiannis
Andrew Freeman
Paige Frees

Rebecca Freiburg
Phoebe Fuller
Jasmine Garduno
Fredrick Gay
Omareon Gay
Samara Gay
Trichelle Gay

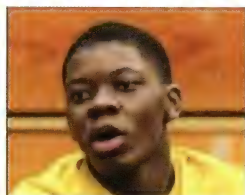
GET IN THE GAME

[Junior gamers describe their favorite games]



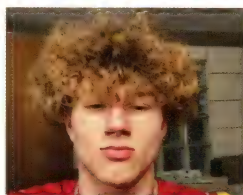
"GTA because I love being able to do anything in a game, and it is close to real life."

Mohamed Abdalla



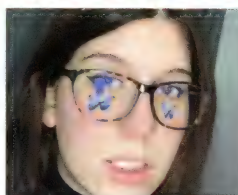
"My favorite video game is Madden because I like sports games, and it is fun beating my friends all the time."

Aoci Bernard



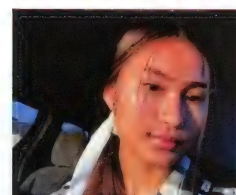
"Minecraft because I never get bored, and there is always something you can do to have fun."

Andrew Freeman



"Minecraft because why not? I mean, you get to build anything you want in different ways, and be creative, and you can even play with lots of people."

Ashlie Heggen



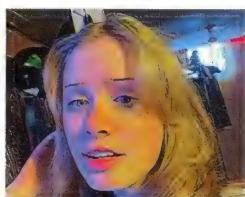
"Call of Duty because my cousin got me into it, and it is very popular among teenagers, so I decided to give it a shot."

Soe Paw



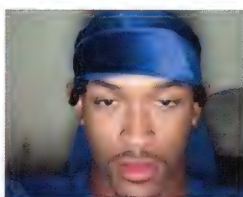
"My favorite video game is Call of Duty because it is a fun game, and it is fun to play with my friends."

Katie Kavanaugh



"Injustice 2 because my friends taught me how to play it, and it is really fun to beat them at it, even though I just started playing it."

Kara Baumunk



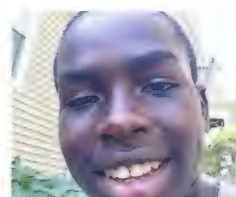
"Mortal Kombat because I like games where you fight, and Mortal Kombat just has a lot of that."

Baker Beal



"FIFA, even though I really like to play soccer in person, it is always nice, from time to time, to just relax and play virtual soccer."

Alejandro Torres



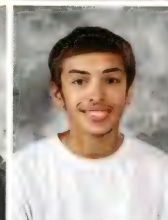
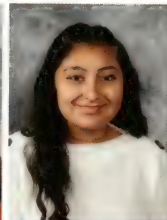
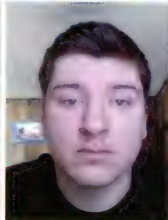
"FIFA, because I like to play football."

Irakoze Emery

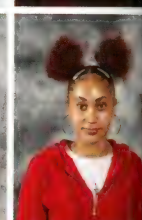
Xander George
Emmanuel Goeh
Noeli Gonzalez
Maria Gonzalez Moreno
Carli Gordon
Edgar Grandberry
Taleah Gray



Connor Green
Antonio Gregory
Grace Gustafson
Karina Guzman
Mykia Hagan
Tyler Halligan
Elizabeth Hamilton



LaTyrianna Hamilton
Shamya Hampton
Tyler Hansen
Savannah Harding
Ashlie Heggen
Marchello Henderson
LaQuita Henning



Mauricio Hernandez
Laci Hickenbottom
Daryll Hicks
Damian Hobert
Isaiah Horice
Talayah Horice
Austin Hoteling



COMEBACK SEASON



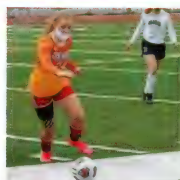
"COVID has affected my volleyball season by pushing it back to the spring, which is around the same time as club season. I might not get to play both this year."

- Sophia Sigler



"COVID has affected me, as an athlete, by pushing back my season. It is also giving me a second off season to become the best football player I can be."

- Jacob Rohwer



"COVID affected my high school baseball season, which was very disappointing because I was looking forward to playing with some of the seniors."

- Elijah Boeye



"I still go to workouts and practices for my sports because I try to stay active, so I can still be the best I can be."

- Mateo Pena



"COVID has come in the way of my sports in many good ways and many bad ways. On the positive side, it allows me to prepare my body and get stronger."

- Amarian Nimmers



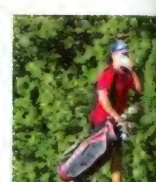
"It has taken away a season and has definitely changed the way of the game."

- Olivia Bowman



"Being an athlete during the pandemic has been tough. When quarantine first started, I did not practice as much, so I felt like I wasn't getting better as a player."

- Delia Schwartz





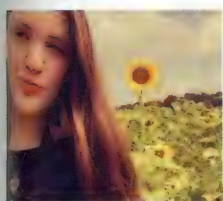
Eh Htoo
Hanna Hultgren
Careem Hunter
Francisca Ibarra
Aime Iranyibutse
Leon Isaac
Aaliyah Jackson

Tyana Jackson
Jeniffer Jaramillo
Drew Jarding
Darionna Johnson
Dylan Johnson
Freddie Johnson
Nathan Johnson

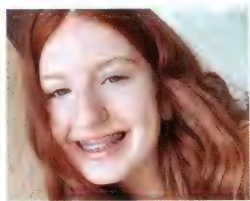
Olivia Johnson
Trammel Johnson
Yasmin Jones
Tongil Kalomba
Kezimana Karine
Zachary Karn
Katherine Kavanaugh

Campbell Kelley
Marielle Kelley
Jerzee Kernan
Alexander Killian
Uda Kimba
Rebecca Kirzeder
Jacob Kitterman

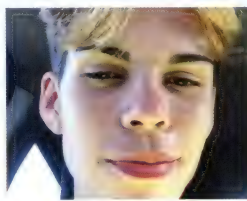
Junior Aesthetics



"Depends on the day. Either soft girl or nice girl would be me."
- Cassie Engels



"My aesthetic is more of a soft girl because I listen to music anyone can vibe with."
- Savannah Harding



"My aesthetic is alternative because I hate boring."
- Drew Jarding



"I think my personal aesthetic is like a 2000s."
- Kara Baumunk



"Whatever I'm feeling at the time. Whether it's all black or butterflies."
- Rose Rocillo

Melyni Knott
Farrah Kraklow
Mackenzie Kreger
Nathan Krug
Devin Krup
Eh Ku
Owen Kump



Kaw La
Logan Lambrecht
Ana Lampert
Calvin Larson
Mereweneza Patrick Lavie
Peh Lay
Pearce LeLonek



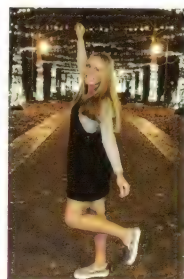
Sofia Leone
JaMaie Lindsey
Kole Littlejohn
Gabriella Lloyd
Jacob Long
Monserat Lopez
Kurstin Lovell



Ethan MacMillan
Layla Mahmutovic
Sumail Malenga
Kyi Man
Jenny Marceleno
Omar Marceleno-Alba
Natalia Marshall

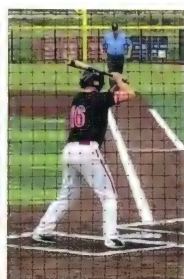


Q A



Isabella Allison

"My dream job is to be a kindergarten teacher because I love helping little kids."



Xander George

"My dream job is to be a catcher for the Chicago Cubs."



Taylor Pannell

"My dream job is to be an orthodontist."



Aoci Bernard

"My dream job is to own a multi-billion dollar company."



Kyi Man

"A businesswoman."



Zachary Beckman

"A professional soccer player."

What is your dream job?



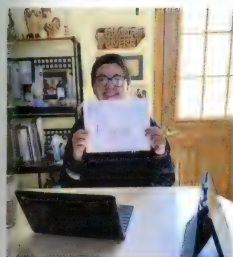
Erik Maston
Janine Mawazo
Laycee Mawazo
Janaya Mayfield
Marysa McClary
Tristen McDonough
Imari McDuffy

Brycen McGarry
Anden McKinney
Doniere McNeal
Arianna McRae
Jamaurya Medlock
Hunter Melody
Jose Mendez

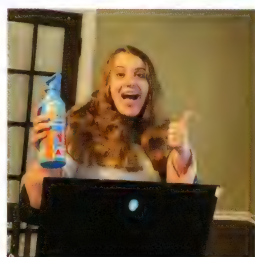
Roberto Mendez
Juan Mendoza-Perez
Demetrius Meyers-Bryant
Liyah Millbrook
Kaelic Miller
Raequan Miller
Christian Mills

Raja Mims
Tessa Monroe
Presley Mooney
Briana Moreno
Diego Moreno
Reponse Muhoza
Alaina Muller

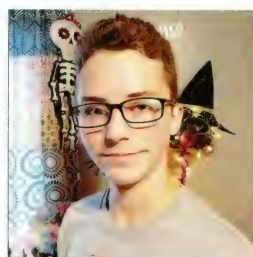
ROCKING ONLINE LEARNING



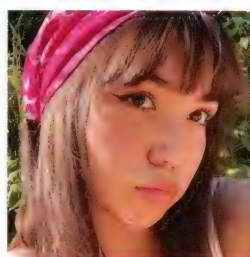
"My favorite thing would be waking up in pajamas, and doing homework at home."
- Ysabella Benton



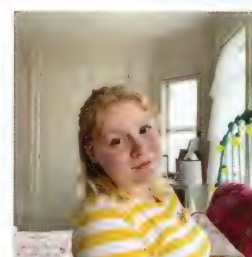
"My favorite thing about online school is that I can take my time on homework with all the extra time I have with the shortened classes."
- Georgi Feigley



"One thing I like about online school is we're in the comfort of our own home. So, we can maybe concentrate better, without students being disruptive."
- Damian Hobert



"Nothing. It's draining, and I am overwhelmed immensely. Please take me back."
- Rose Rocillo



"I'd have to say my favorite thing about online school is that I feel like I can focus more. There's not as many distractions as there is in a normal class!"
- Addison VandeWalle

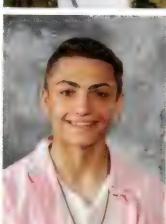
Ella Munday
Montgomery Murdock
Heaven Myers
DeVonte Nathan-Prince
Makayla Neal
Niyogusenga Neema
Logan Newberry



Pascal Nibitanga
Amarion Nimmers
Willy Niyonzima
Favour Noya
Win Win Nwet
Aileni (Irene) Nzoyitazira
Hlaing Oo



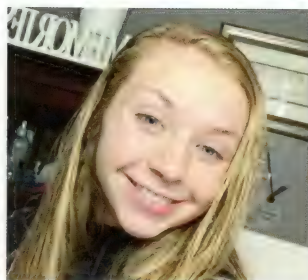
Tha Oo
Sage Oviatt
Madison Panick
Brandon Pannebaker
Taylor Pannell
Kaitlyn Parker
JaNigh Parks



Radell Parks
Soe Paw
Ywa Hay Paw
Mateo Pena
Brigitte Pendeza
Brisa Perez
Santiago Perez



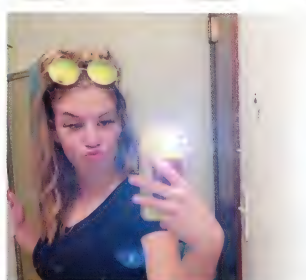
NEW JOBS



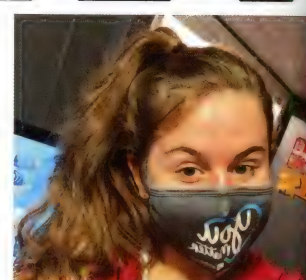
Over this pandemic, Emily Allison got a job at local community swimming pool, White Water Junction. Allison chose WWJ because a lot of her friends were working there.



Over this pandemic, Zachary DeMarlie got a job working for the Parks Department. "I won't be able to keep this job when school goes back because the work hours are the same as school," DeMarlie said.



Gabriella Taber got a job at McDonald's. Taber said she got this job "because it is close to my house, and I would have to drive very far every day I worked," Taber explains.



Jayla Upton got a job at Unity Point Hospital as a patient care tech. Upton got this job because, "My sister works at the hospital, and wanted me to get a job there, too," she states.



Jaibreonna Phillips
Jaysha Phillips
Diane Pilipili
Roerto Pizano Alba
Madelynn Polito
Emilio Pompa
Riley Potter

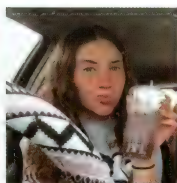
Dontrell Powers
Ricoyah Price
Bailey Proffitt
Sydney Quinones
Bailey Ramirez
Kelsey Ramirez
Jaylin Randle

Aden Rasmussen
Ethan Raymond
Brian Reed
Eli Reese
Hede Reyes
Jay Richardson
Myles Richardson

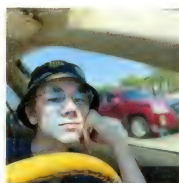
Emma Richey
Benjamin Riecke
Kai Rios
Rosadalia Rocillo
Lillian Rodriguez
Kennedy Roggenbauer
Jacob Rohwer

K C O R

driving to the



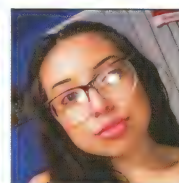
"It's nice to finally get to school around the time I want to and listen to the music I want to on the way."
Olivia Sholl



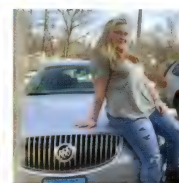
"It was weird since there was barely any traffic around the school during blended learning."
Monty Murdock



"I like it because I feel more independent and responsible for myself than having someone else drive me."
Ian Empen



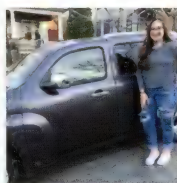
"Driving myself feels pretty good since I don't have to wait on a parent to drive me there, and I can leave when I please."
Jenny Marceleno



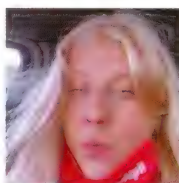
"It's freeing. You don't have to worry about being late because of your parents, and you can leave when you want. Plus, you can stop to get something to drink beforehand."
Anna Vermeire



"It feels really nice, being on my own time management, but it is also weird not driving with my mom."
Lizzie Aguilar



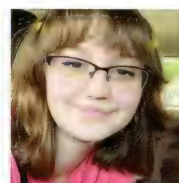
"It's so surreal! I had always looked forward to the day I'd drive myself to Rocky, and be independent in that way. The first time I actually did was such a weird, but exciting feeling."
Ava Coussens



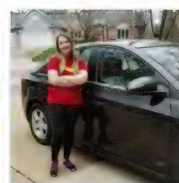
"It felt accomplishing to be able to drive myself to school. To be able to drive myself made me feel like an adult."
Kennedy Roggenbauer



"Traffic wasn't as bad as it was last year due to less people showing up to school, but it was stressful because I only had my license for about a week."
Savannah Harding



"It's so much fun to start each day with my own schedule. I liked being able to listen to my own music, and feeling responsible."
Phoebe Fuller

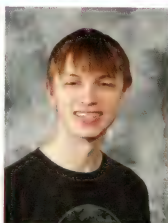


"It's scary, but exciting. It gives that feeling of growing up."
Mikhaela Sherrard



"I like it so much more! I can leave at whatever time I want. I can listen to whatever music I want!"
Alaina Muller

Ruby Romero Escamilla
Abbie Roos
Leora Rosebaum
Kasen Ross
Ailia Rubalcava
Diego Ruiz
Luis Ruiz Guillen



Dajana Rush
Jyreous Rush
Kamara Sakho
Zumi Sambdman
Law Eh Say
Talieya Schappaugh
Matthew Schrinier-Hall



Hailee Schwab
Delia Schwartz
Nick Seabolt
Josephine Seams
Enock Sehinda
Chase Sexton
Htoo Shee



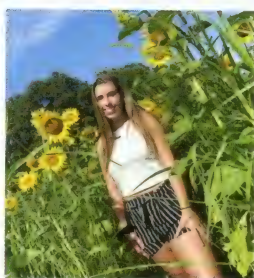
Ku Shee
Mikhaila Sherrard
Olivia Sholl
Chloe Shomo
Trista Shoop-Lowry
Drake Shuck
Isabel Sierra



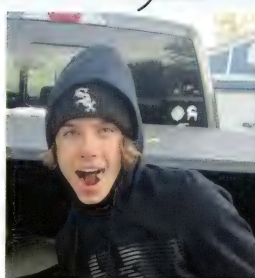
This year, I miss...



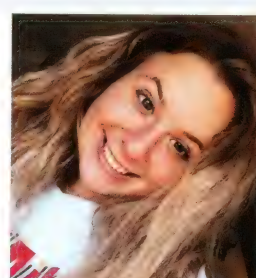
"One thing I miss most about this year is being able to go to lunch with my friends."
- Antony Doss, 11



"I miss actually being able to socialize with friends at school and going to school events."
- Jaiden Womack, 11



"I miss being able to ask my teachers for help, and seeing my friends every day."
- Brycen McGarry, 11



"I miss going to the sporting events and supporting my friends."
- Layla Mahmutovic, 11



"I miss the experience of playing in big games with my team, and playing in front of fans."
- Elijah Reese, 11



"I miss just being at school like normal, and seeing everyone every day."
- Ella Munday, 11



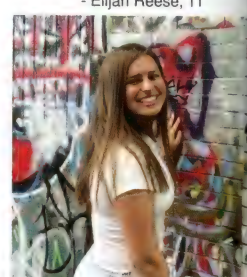
"I miss showing up to school on game days, and the energy from classmates, and anticipation for the game."
- Marion Anderson, 11



"I miss going to school and seeing everyone."
- Madison Chastain, 11



"I miss going to basketball games in the winter."
- Andrew Freeman, 11



"I miss being able to go to school, and hang out with my friends, without being scared of getting COVID."
- Sydney Quinones, 11



Sophia Sigler
Michael Simmons
Briar Singleton
Owen Skinner
Caleb Smith
Dominic Solis
Rmakiah Speights

Cassie Stapp
Aniyah Steele
Ma'Kayla Steele
Halana Stephenson
Brionjanique Stewart
Tazia Stoner Harris
Hunter Straw-Lucas

Jacob Stribling
Corey Strong
Malenga Sumaili
Shadrack Sumaili
Benjamin Sweborg
Gabriella Taber
Kiley Tallman

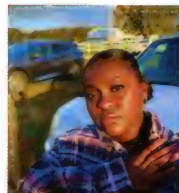
Zaryah Tate
Nakiyah Taylor
Angel Teague
Jameer Teague
Cung Thang
Shee Thaw
Chase Thompson



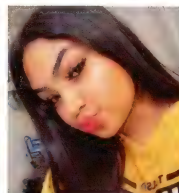
Nywe Win
"Manage your time wisely and don't procrastinate too much."



Uda Kimba
"Be involved in as many school events as possible, and meet new people."



Brigitte Pendoza
"Do your homework, and turn your work in on time. I know it's draining, and at times, it feels useless, but it really will save you. Also, always study, even if it's just for 5 minutes."



Alexa Avalos
"These are the most important years of your education, so don't let anything distract you from your goals."



Emma Richey
"Don't ever let other people put you down or tell you what to do. In the end, you only have yourself who's gonna care for you. :)"



Rose Rocillo
"We're tiny little specks, living on a floating rock in space. Make of it what you want."



Drew Jarding
"Be bold, take risks, and make sure you believe in yourself before you believe in others."



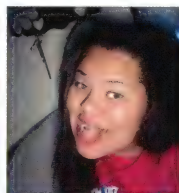
Cohan Crawford
"Studying is more important than you think. It may not be fun, but it's completely worth it."



Crystal Fragogiannis
"Take advantage of all the moments in high school, and do things for yourself, and try not to care a lot about what others think. As long as you're happy, that's what really matters."



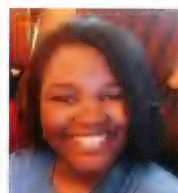
Kara Baumunk
"Try to be involved with school clubs and events because you will have so much fun, and it will make high school a blast!"



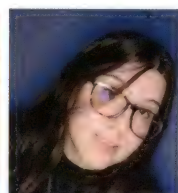
Mallory Day
"These are the best and most treasured moments of your life. Don't let someone or something stop you from living up the best memories you'll be making in high school."



Sage Oviatt
"Find your niche and group of friends to stick with, and you'll be good."



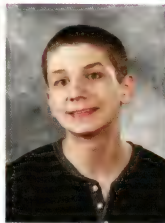
Tongil Kalomba
"For studying, use Quizlet. It'll make it easier, and it's more fun that way."



Ashlie Heggan
"Don't push everything off 'til the last minute. It ends up stressing you out 10x more than if you just did it right away. Trust me, you'll get through it. It does get easier."

ADVICE TO THE YOUNGER ROCKS

Kenneth Thompson
Lexi Thompson
Christopher Thrapp
GayKu Thu
Shamarr Tolbert
Alejandro Torres
Kayliana Trahan



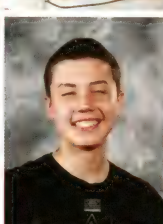
Juan Troche
Mwamini Tuombe
Roland Ullrick
Florence Umuhoza
Jayla Upton
Natalie VanCoillie
Addison VandeWalle



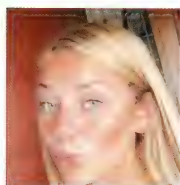
Luke VanDeWalle
Tona'e Vaughn
Angie Velasco
Kaleb Vellocido
Anna Vermeire
Jack Veronda
Najah Vesey



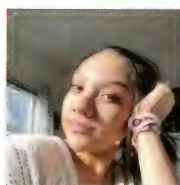
Javier Villarreal
Mickenzie Wakeland
Madison Walker
Tori Walker
Scott Wangler
Emily Watson
Namonea Watson



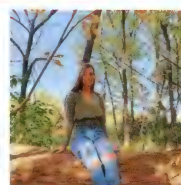
ROCK SOLID



Avery Brandt
"My favorite tradition is Spirit Week, and everything that leads up to Homecoming."



Eliza Aleman
"Homecoming Week. It's exciting to see all these different people gathered for the same reason."



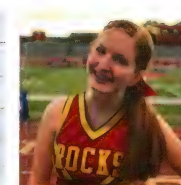
Alaina Muller
"Probably the Homecoming theme because it's so fun to dress up for each theme, and see others doing it, too."



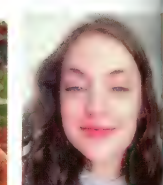
Aime Iranyibutse
"Going to the Homecoming game because the energy is so high, and the whole school is there."



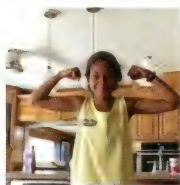
Ella Munday
"Themed student sections are super fun, and it's cool to see the student section, as a whole, dressed up."



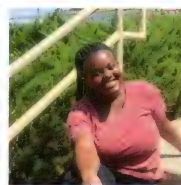
Savannah Harding
"Doing the 'Rock Town' cheer at the basketball and football games."



Cassandra Engels
"The basketball chant we do- we've never really changed them and I think that's awesome."



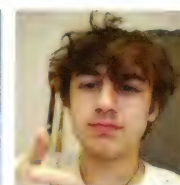
Cori Williams
"Running out of the tunnel during basketball."



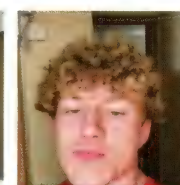
Favour Noya
"The rally that is held within the first week of school with hot dogs and tug-of-war. It really gets me hyped for the school year! Especially since it's the easiest way to make new friends!"



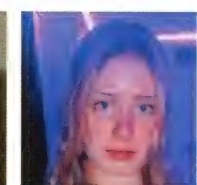
Sage Oviatt
"The Homecoming Assembly and parade because it's always fun to watch and be a part of. Also, since I'm a part of Student Council, I get to help put on the dance."



Cohen Crawford
"My favorite Rocky tradition is easily Senior Night for the seniors on the boys soccer team. Seeing them play in their final home game just feels special."



Andrew Freeman
"My favorite is the Homecoming Assembly because we get to see who the Homecoming Court is, and everyone does a little dance."



Kara Baumunk
"In Drama Club, we stand in a huge circle each night, hold each others' hands, and sing the Alma Mater together, then we get into our spots. It's really fun for us."



James Webb
Jaylynn Weistart
Michael Wells
Mekayla Welsh
Zane White-Edgington
Anthony Whited
Jaylen Whitney

Jordan Whittington
Cori Williams
Terrance Williams
Drake Williamson
Daisha Willis
Evan Willis
Nyota Wilondja

Hsi Dah Win
Nywe Nywe Win
Zaw Win
Courtney Wixom
Tyler Wolf
Jaiden Womack
Alyssa Wood

Mar'Cha Woodson
James Wulgaert
Aaron York
Adrian Zetina

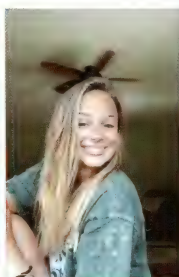
Q A

What does it mean to be an upper-classman?



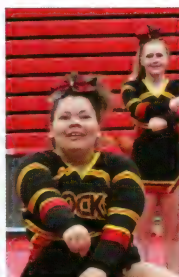
Emily Allison

"Being an upperclassman means I am a role model to those younger, so I need to set a good example."



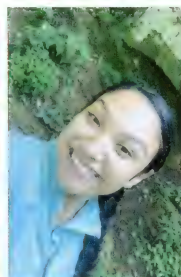
Kelly Canning

"I always have looked up to the upperclassmen. It is exciting people can look up to me."



Mallory Day

"It makes me realize our teenage years are coming to an end, and we should value and enjoy it."



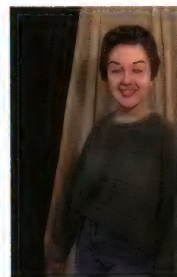
Eliza Aleman

"To me, it is a big accomplishment. I would encourage everyone to cherish high school."



Arianna McRae

"Being a junior excites me because I am a year closer to my career plan and goals."



Chloé Shomo

"Overall, being an upperclassman this year has helped me to be more confident going forward."



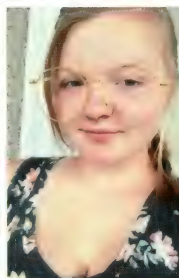
Michelle Anglese

"Being an upperclassman means helping younger students through high school."



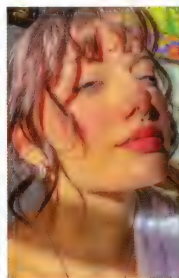
Ashlie Heggen

"I still feel as if I am a freshman, at times, and it is crazy to think college is coming up."



Kiley Tallman

"It is a little saddening that we only have one more year, but it is exciting."



Emma Rietey

"Being an upperclassman means you have more responsibility."



Avery Brandt

"To me, it means showing underclassmen what they have to look forward to."



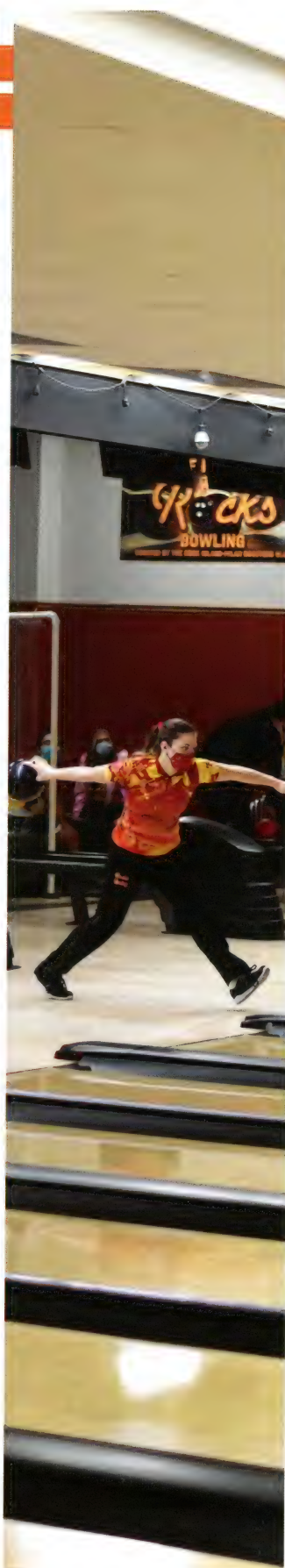
Bella Allison

"This means I have to represent Rocky in the best way possible."



Mateo Pena

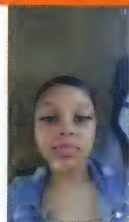
"It gives me the need to be a role model for those younger than me."





We started our high school careers, thinking our time at the Rock would be much like those who came before us. In March of 2020, our year took a different turn. Our second year at Rocky started at home. Some of us returned briefly in October, again in January, and then again in March. This year is the year we were supposed to leave third floor. Instead, we not only left the floor, but some of us haven't even been back in the building. Despite these differences, we have still figured out what it means to be a Rock. We still have class and drivers' ed, a huge part of sophomore year. We could take our first Advanced Placement courses and had more electives open up for us within our schedules. We still get to compete on our athletic teams and participate in the arts. As underclassmen, we know we have the responsibility of carrying on the Rocky traditions that our upperclassmen showed us. Our second year at Rocky wasn't traditional, but we made the best of it!

Mohamed Abdalla
Connor Adner
Aquarius Aitken
Jesus Alba
Mireya Aleman
Mauriana Almore
Danycia Altemus



Zoe Alturas
Jasmin Alva-Perez
Ashton Anderson
Dameon Anderson
Davian Anderson
Julian Anderson
Mariah Anderson



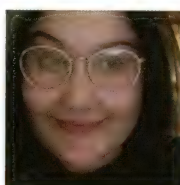
Maryionce Anderson
Peyton Anderson
Gavin Arp
Payton Aschemann
Daxon Ashpaugh
Aimerance Askeji
Cameron Atkinson



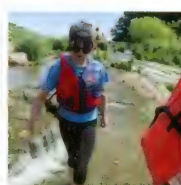
Elise Aunan
Edward Awour Kur
Mitamba Babocha
Naabwe Babocha
Braeden Baker
Tyler Barbee
Anjilika Barikzay



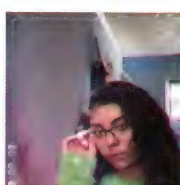
"I have a white Jeep on mine. My dream car is a Jeep, and so, I put a Jeep sticker on my water bottle."
Camryn Milefchik



"I have a lot of stickers from The Office on my hydroflask, but Jim is my favorite character. There are also countless musical theatre references (Yes, I'm a thespian)."
Grace Phares



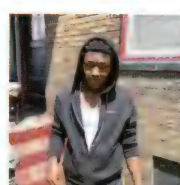
"My sticker has flowers on it, and it shows how much I like Atomic, because it's from Atomic."
Lynzie Heggen



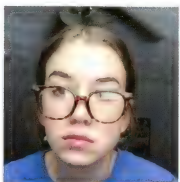
"I love watching anime."
Zoe Alturas



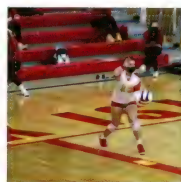
"I like to take selfies :)"
Mariyah McQueen



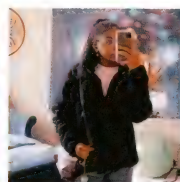
"I like football."
Navarion Counts



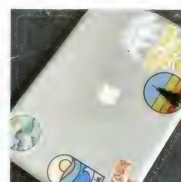
"I have a dance sticker."
Lauren Gant



"I have a Rocky volleyball sticker, and I love playing the sport, and being around my teammates. It can demonstrate that I am driven, athletic, and motivated."
Mari Churchill



"I have about 8 pairs of them, and wear them almost every day, and it just shows that I like to be comfy all the time."
Nina Hamilton



"I have Patagonia, and that's because I really enjoy the outdoors!"
Carter Cupp

Sticker Stories



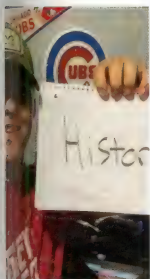
Cade Barnes
Marissa Barnum
Sam Baugous
Erriea Bea
Nevaeh Bellamy
Jace Bennett
Ethan Bender

Ethan Bergheger
Xavier Berry
Noah Bird
Kyle Bisby
Loiyen Blamah-Jackson
Airiyawna Blaser
James Blew

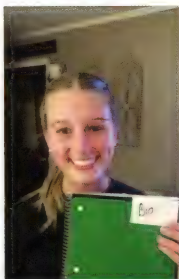
Jade Bohlander
Jayden Bomelyn
Jeremie Bond
Ivan Boone
Emilee Borkhardt
Jake Brandt
Jeramiah Brandt

Alysa Braud
Joshua Briggs
Quonterrian Brooks
Maliyah Brose
Nicolas Brown
Michael Brummit
Zenniphyr Bullock

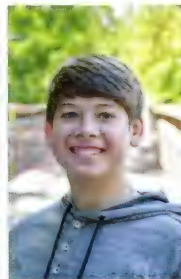
Sophomore Scholars



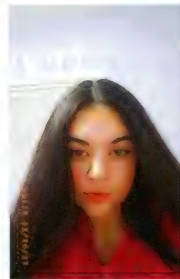
Bryce Lowry
"My favorite class is History. It's my favorite because I love to learn about the past and Mr. Trenary is pretty lit."



Camryn Milefchik
"My favorite class is Science because I want to be a nurse, and they need lots of science classes."



Noah Keever
"My favorite class is Earth Science because the teacher makes it interesting and fun."



Alysa Braud
"My favorite class is Spanish because I am somehow really good at it, and I like my teacher."



Denise Carr
"My favorite class is Geometry. I can learn really well with literal objects and shapes."



Kayla Rice
"My favorite class is AVID because everyone in there feels like another family."



Molly Nesseler
"My favorite class is probably Chemistry. It's really difficult, but in a fun way. I also just really like science."

Quinci Bumgarner
Misa Byobe
Daphne Calderon
Braylin Calhoun
Addison Campbell
Aniae Carapia
Makylie Carey



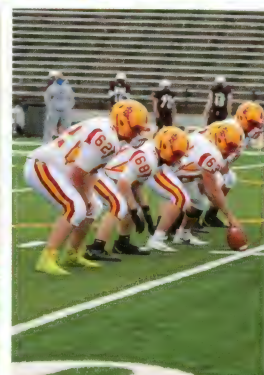
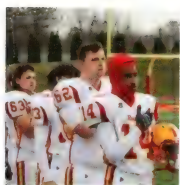
Lexie Carothers
Monyonnoh Carr
Alexis Carroll
Cesar Casco
McKenzie Casselman
Saul Castaneda
Maricela Churchill



Alexia Clark
Miranda Clark
Kiesel Clay
Virginia Clay
Chanel Colvin
Branden Colvin Jr
Viviana
Contreras-Villagomez



Madison Cook
Matthew Cook
Thomas Cook
Devin Cookson
Chloe Cooper
Ocean Cooper
Aniya Cotton



JV Football



Derion Craig
Myracle Craig
Makalia Crawford
Edie Crayne
Jaysha Cribb
Jenae Cross-Carruthers
Nhi Dang

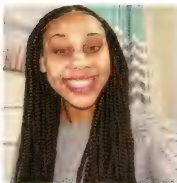
Milan Davis
Law Dee
Evan DeFauw
Mariela DeMeyer
Stevie Dempsey
Alicia Dennison
Lilyana DeRudder

Brie Dickinson
Ava Dietz
Stephen Dillender
Nevaeh Dore
Bridget Dunkin
Donathian Ebengo
Happiness Elias

Vyizigiro Emelina
Morgan Engholm
Ireona Euring
Caitlin Eves
Mitchell Ferkel
Dylan Ferrel
Jaiden Fields

Sophomores *Behind the Wheel*

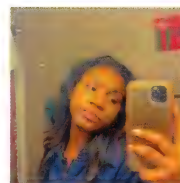
"Driving makes sophomore year the best year in high school."
-Danee' Robinson



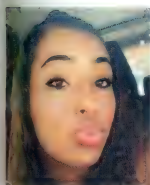
"It has been hard learning how to drive because of the pandemic."
- Erriea Bea



"Driving is obviously the best thing about sophomore year."
- Nina Hamilton



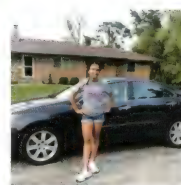
"It's the freedom of coming to school by yourself for me, even though it's only two days, right now."
- Haley Waffle



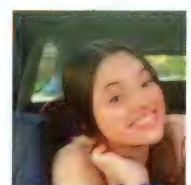
"Driving is something I've been looking forward to since I've been in high school."
- Jenae Carruthers



"Driving is most definitely the best part about sophomore year."
- Terrmell Akers



"Driving just gives me a lot of freedom, even though there is not a lot of places to go to right now."
- Kayla Rice



Aidan Fiers
Norah Finley
Kendrick Freeman
Michael Fuentes
Timothy Fulscher
Lauren Gant
Diana Garcia



Edmund Garcia
Tatum Garrett
Caden Garrison
Eh Gay
Kameron Gay
Kershaun Gay
Nay Gay



Nekeyhl Gay
Tevin Gay
Mizero Gerald
For Give
Deaken Golz
Nathaniel Gottcent
Shanyah Graham



Madison Greenwood
Colin Gulick
Vaida Gunasheva
Connie Gutierrez
Landon Hamilton
Nina Hamilton
Brennan Hampton



The Sophomore Lady Rocks
compete in 2021 **take your best shot!**



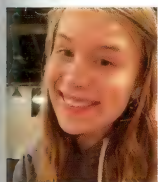


Secret Hampton
Ella Hansen
Lucas Hansen
Taleigha Hansen
Andrew Harker
Kiley Harrell
Devonne Harris

Shawn Harrison
Ashlyn Hartman
Ali Hatem
Abigail Hauskins
Riley Hawotte
DeMarco Hearn
Bailey Hecker

Lynzie Heggen
Kira Hemphill
Sebastian Hemphill
Aidan Henderson
Jasmine Henderson
Jennifer Henderson
Nihyeva Henderson

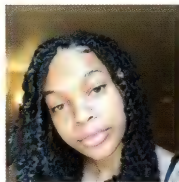
Nathan Hendrickx
Jared Hernandez
Javier Hernandez Limon
Mahiela Hewitt-Bolden
Elayisha Hinton
JoAnne Hodges
Andrea Hodonou



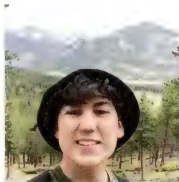
"My go to tv show is Friends because the characters are relatable, and always make me laugh!"
- Ella Hansen



"St. Francis of Assisi shows. This entertained me because I only had two choices- freak out or follow God during the pandemic. I picked follow God."
- Jared Hernandez



"Stranger Things, All American, Grand Army, Thirteen Reasons Why, Scooby-Doo, and True Crime. I enjoy the shows because I'm interested in both sad, funny, mysterious, and compelling shows. I also like kid shows because it reminds me of my childhood, like Spongebob."
- Kiley Harrell



"My favorite tv show is Brooklyn 99, and that is what I am watching right now to relax!"
- Carter Cupp

TELEVISION TO THE RESCUE

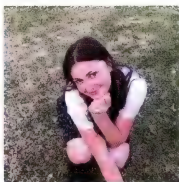
What TV shows have sophomores been watching to relax?



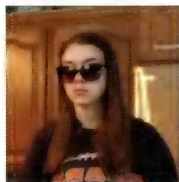
"Recently, I've been rewatching Pretty Little Liars. It's always been a great show, and I'm hooked on it again."
- Camryn Milefchik



"I've been watching a show called the Disastrous Life of Saiki K a lot recently."
- Molly Nesseler



"Recently, my favorite show to relax to is American Horror Story."
- Alexis Carroll



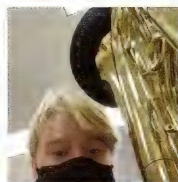
"My favorite show is Friends because it is a good comfort show I can watch countless times."
- Lauren Gant



"Recently, I've been watching Vampire Diaries. I watch it a lot to relax because it helps keep my mind off other things."
- Addi Campbell



"My favorite tv show is Good Girls because it's funny, and it never gets boring. I always want to know what's going to happen next."
- Chloe Cooper



"My favorite show is the Mandalorian because I've always liked the Star Wars franchise, and it expands that in a really cool way."
- Julian Anderson

Flora Holcomb
Spencer Holliday
Frank Holmes
Brianna Hoss
Zachary Hoss
McKenzie Houston
Baw Htoo



Lay Htoo
New Year Htoo
November Htoo
Paw SHe Htoo
Kyleigh Hughes
Octavis Isom
Breanna Jackson



Lamarian Jackson
Dylan James
Ta'Miah Jamison
Niklaus Janssen
Emma Jasper
Alyce Jeff Ryan
Christian Johnson



Kaylee Johnson
Gage Johnson
Lloyd Jones
Riley Jones
Kaiden Karzin
Mary Keen
Noah Keever



SOPHOMORES ON THE ROAD

Q A

What are you most excited about when you get your license?



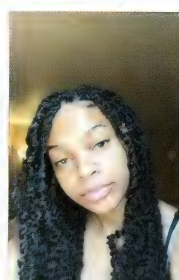
Terrmell Akers
"I'm most excited to be able to go wherever I want."



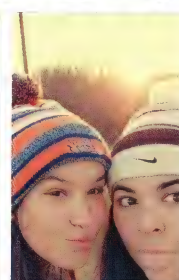
Cristee Paw
"I'm super excited to be able to drive with friends and hang out without worrying about driving with an adult."



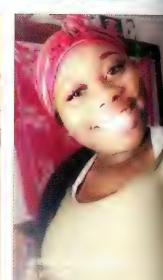
Camryn Milefchik
"Being able to have a little bit more freedom, and to be able to go places I want, whenever I want."



Kiley Harrell
"I get to drive by myself. I don't have to ask my mom for rides, and I could take road trips alone."



Alysa Braud
"To drive my brother and friends to drive thrus and other things."



Shawntel Richardson
"I'm excited because I can take myself places, and won't have to depend on anybody for rides."



Jacob Kern
Di Khu
Gilbert Kibingila
Isabella King
Andrew Kirby
Nyota Kisubi
Drake Klundt

Klae Kpor
Landin Krakliow
Aiyanna Lacey
Dylin Laktas
Isaiah Lambert-
Lannen
Jocelyn Larsen
Gabriel Lavino

Nathan Lee
Soe Ler
Ntiebuwayo Leya
Niyubuntu Lionel
Alexandria Lipe
Carlos Lizano
Xavier Lolli

Jazmin Lopez
Juanita Lopez
Rafael Lopez
Ninel Lopez Favela
Bryce Lowry
Savannah Lundquist
Evan Lyon

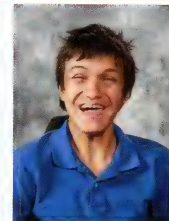
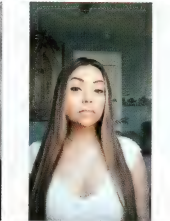
SPORTY SOPHOMORES



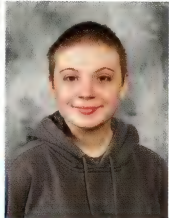
Madelyn Maidak
Ayen Malual
Marina Mancera
Kennedy Maombi
Hector Marceleno-Robles
Steven Marquez
Jenavieve Martel



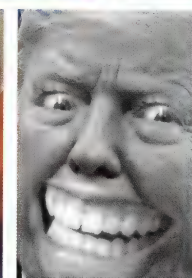
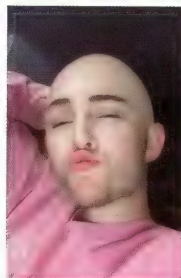
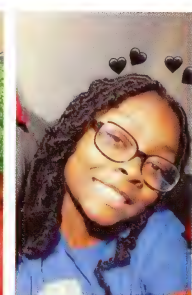
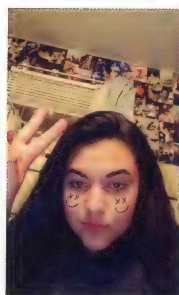
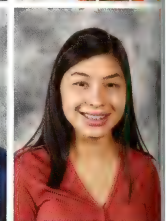
Dylan Martin
Tyler Martin
Alexia Martinez
Juliana Mata
Kyle Mata
Kyle Matherly
Keller Mathews



Arianna Matthews
Madalynn Maxey
Alexis McClay
Abie McCrady
Joseph McCullough
David McDonald
Israel McGowan



Kaiya McKinley
Noah McMeekan
Mariyah McQueen
Angeliq Medrano
Mackenzie Meirhaeghe
Ricardo Mendoza
Montzerrat Meza-Pena



Filtering SOPHOMORE YEAR

WHAT
FILTERS
SOPHS
LOVE



Navaeh Middlebrook
Sienna Mikaio
Camryn Milefchik
Gavin Miller
Kassandra Miller
LaJaden Miller
Macey Miller

Abby Mills
Tyreek Mills
Olivia Mitchell
Shyaunna Mitchell
Zayne Mlekush
Kaden Moeding
Hser Moo

Julian Morales-Vicuna
Dustin Moreno
Jaron Morris
Logan Morris
Markell Morrison
Jason Mueck
Amure' Murphy

Jordan Murray
Emily Myers
Jonathan Nadeau
Cooper Nelson
Nyla Nelson
Derrius Nephew
Molly Nesseler

ROCKIN' THE COURT

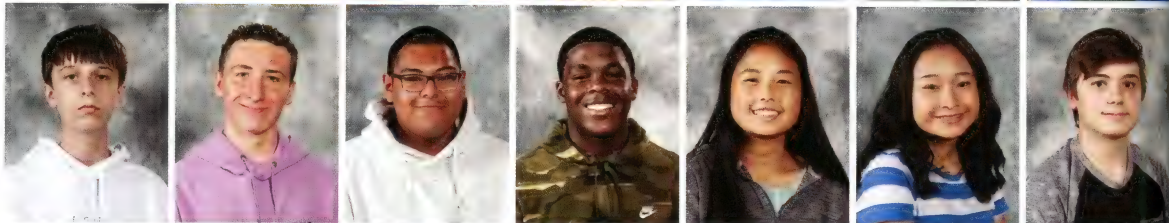
The Sophomore Rocks competed well in their short season.



Aaron Nettles
Nelle Ninahazwe
Sentia Nishimwe
Aline Niyogusenga
Samuel Niyonkuru
Ventre Norwood
Suzana Nyasa



Mathew Olderog
Benjamin Oliver
Alejandro Pantoja
Traveon Parks
Cristee Paw
Hsa Klee Paw
Landen Paxston Sanders



Nolan Pence
Daysia Peniston
Jaliyah Pennington
Butch Pepper
Maria Perez
Jannet Perez-Vazquez
Grace Phares



Fernando Pizano
Kaylee Plohr
Natalie Pothoven
Brandon Poulos
Charlea Pressly
Nee Pwe
Gavin Quinones



Angel Ralston
Cencer Ramirez
Maria Rangel
Juliauna Raymond
Jason Redding
Porscha Reed
Owen Reid



10th Grade Tunes





Brayden Reinhardt
Lucas Rettig
Kayla Rice
Shawntel Richardson
Tristian Richardson-Cole
Isaiah Richey
Johary Rivera-Martinez

Danee' Robinson
Nevaeh Robinson
Cunningham
Jason Rockhold
Rajet Rodriguez
Isabelle Roelens
Daivari Rogers
John Rohwer

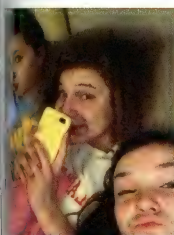
Madison Rosenthal
Felix Ross-Cespedes
Lucas Rossi
Jude Rowell
Evan Ruiz
Curtis Ryan
Aneesa Saldivar

Miranda Salyers
Jailin Sanders-Mosby
Lakelynn Schiffke
Nathan Schinckel
Connor Schweickhardt
Joshua Scott
Kyle Scott

Xavier Seibel
Latesa Selman
Anette Serrato-Rivera
Petro Shabani
Jaquez Smith
Natalee Smith
Quentin Smith

THAT HUG HITS DIFFERENT

Who will sophomores hug first
when COVID19 is over?



Probably, one of
my best friends,
Mari or Qunici."

- Alexis Carroll



"I would hug my
grandma."

- Cameron
Atkinson



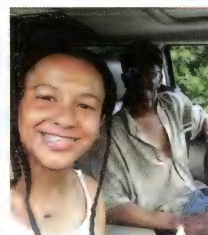
"The first person I
would hug when
COVID restrictions
are lifted is my
grandma."

- Maricela Churchill



"The first person I
want to hug when
COVID19 is over is
my grandma."

- John Rohwer



"The first person I
would hug when
COVID is over is my
grandpa."

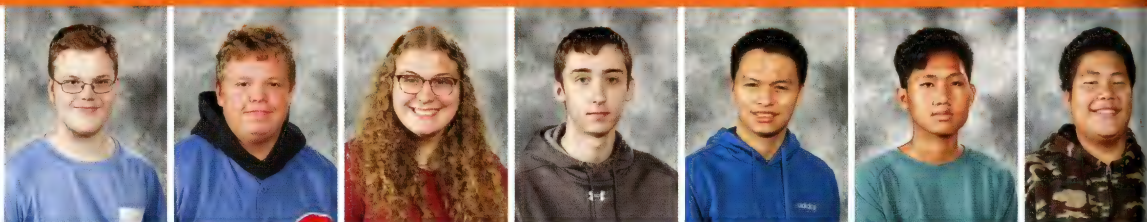
- Kayla Rice



"My great grandma. I
haven't been able to
see her in months."

- Nevaeh Robinson
Cunningham

Xavier Smith
Ethan Smithson
Jennah Smock
Aiden Snyder
Christ Soe
Eh Ler Soe
Moo Doh Soe



MaKenzy Spires
Abigail Stigers
Daniel Stiles
Raymond Stinde
Ava Stonehouse
Morgan Stoneking
Emma Stout



Seth Strandberg
K'mwee Su
Andrew Sullivan
Jesse Swisher
Darviae Tate
Shar Taw
Eden Taylor



Makenzie Terry
Tluang Thang
Antonio Thomas
Asia Thomas
Steven Thomas
Hannah Thompson
Darius Tongo



Ramon Torres
Kierian Trahan
Cesar Trejo
Ashton Unley
Godelive Uwezo
Alijah Vallejo
Samuel Valverde



Lady Rocks Volleyball 2021
Getting to play **in the spring.**





Justin Van Rycke
Isabel Varela
Fernando Vazquez
Cristian Velasco
Fred Venable
Annuarite Venansia
Halie Viernow

Avery Voigt
Haley Waffle
Khu Wah
Robert Walter
Caleb Wangler
Tamajai Wells
Kylee Whan

Olivia Wiese
Ashanti Williams
John Williamson
Triston Willoughby
Xavyor Winter
Tiarra Winters Bland
Kaden Witt

Amiyah Woods
Dayvon Woods
Audryanna Woods-Stewart
DesMond Woodson
Annastasia Wright
Kimora Wright
Fatuma Yondo

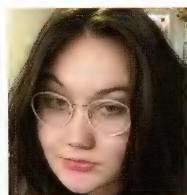
Johari Yusuf
Maxwell Zahner
Joshua Zetina

FASHION FORWARD



Molly Nesseler

"Probably sweatshirts. There's a lot you can do/match with them to make them look fancy or lazy."



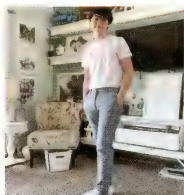
Grace Phares

"Flannel because they're comfortable."



Lilyana DeRudder

"My favorite fashion item is a sweatshirt because I literally live in them almost every day of the week."



Carter Cupp

"My Hollister plaid pants, and they are my favorite because I feel that I look very presentable and nice."



Camryn Milefchik

"Hoop earrings! They go with everything, and they look so good on everyone."



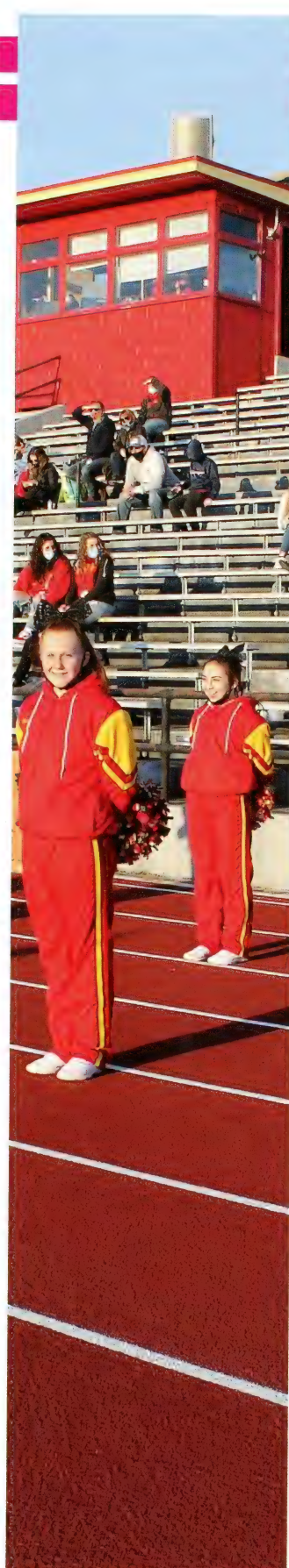
Savannah Lundquist

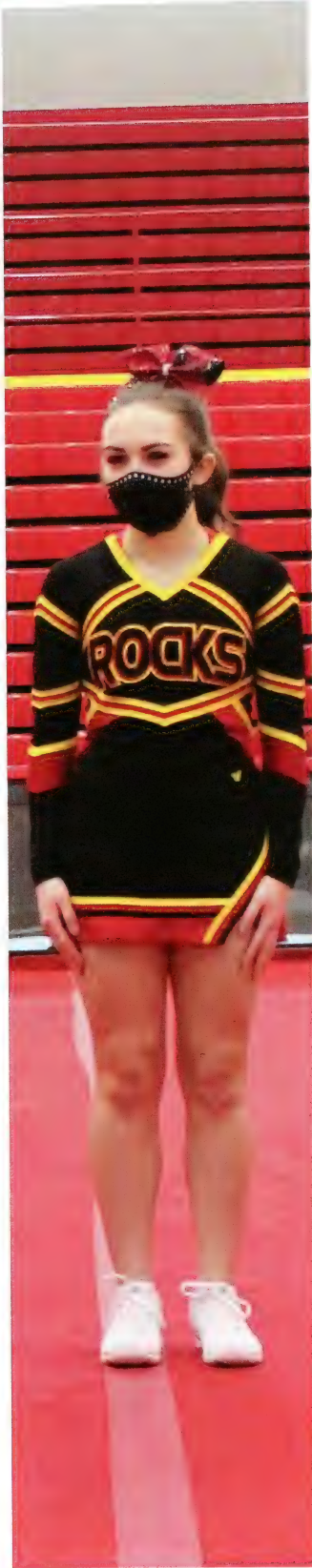
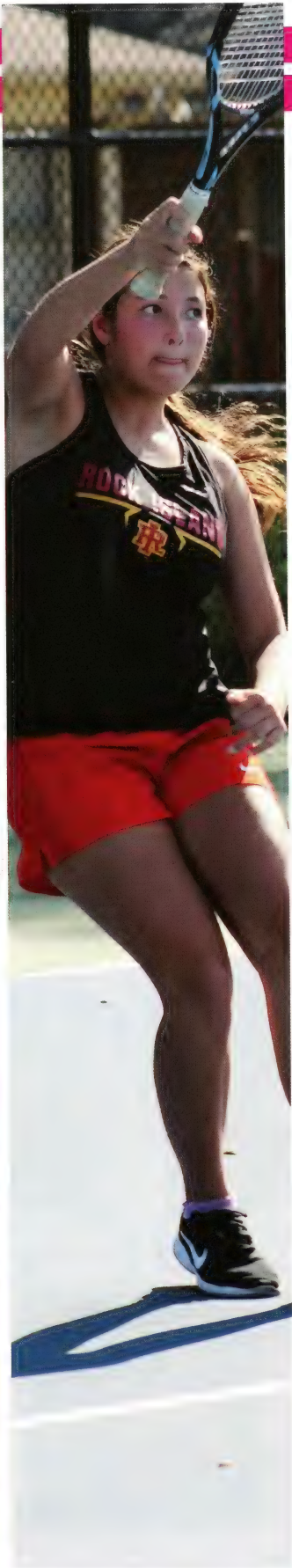
"Jewelry because they can add a cute touch to any outfit."



Kaiya McKinley

"Jeans because they can be styled with pretty much anything, and it would make a cute outfit."



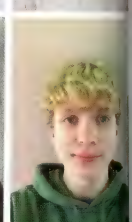


Our first year at the Rock is unlike any that has happened before. The only one that has come close took place over 100 years ago, when Rock Island High School had to close briefly during the Influenza Pandemic. Our start for the RIHS Class of 2024 is different, but will not define our time here. We may have not started our time walking the halls of the school, but we still have Rocky pride in our academics, our athletics, and our music and arts programs. Our new home is either on third floor in the Freshman Academy or virtually in the Freshman Academy at our own homes. We have adjusted to new schedules and a new school. We compete and play for the Rock with pride. We learn from the upperclassmen, and we can't wait to experience more of Rock Island High School.

Salvador Abarca
Rasul Ahmed
Brendon Anderson
Brenna Anderson
Fidelia Awoudi
Chastin Barker
Jayden Barker



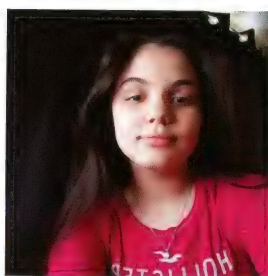
Hailey Becker
Presley Behrens
Jackson Bennett
Halle Bobb
Addison Bomelyn
Kaytlyn Booras
Kal Boswell



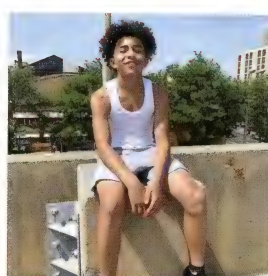
Andrew Bourdeaux
Harrison Braddy
Jeff Brandt
Aidan Brokaw
Joseph Brown
Joshua Brown
Kylan Brozovich



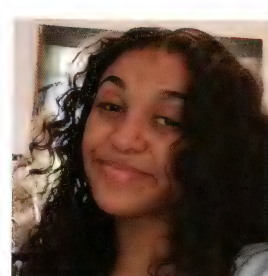
Niyo Bucumi
Sabrina Bufford
Payten Bunch
Veronica Caballero
Jacob Cantu
Alexander Carnahan
Delaney Carroll



"My goal is to have all A's and B's."
- Alyssa Balandran

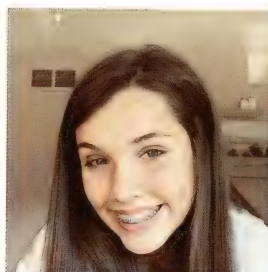


"My number one goal is to become a D1 athlete."
- Jacob Venegas

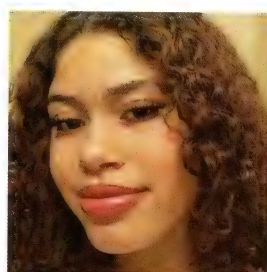


"My goal is to leave the best impact on the people I encounter."
- Honor Ford

OUR HIGH SCHOOL GOALS



"I would like to be at the highest playing level I can be at for volleyball."
- Corbyn Ellis



"My goal is to graduate and go to a university in California."
- Makayla Villarreal



Briseyda Castaneda
Kiefer Chandler
Elena Cisneros
Robvasha Coleman
Leah Conner
Lailony Cook
Matthew Coon

Miya Davis
Brandon Debus
Riley DeVoss
Conner Dilulio
Ntiruvakure Dinye
Guillermo Dominguez
Zachery Draper

Josephine Driskill
Xavier Duster
Dominick Eckmann-Allred
Kailyn Eichelberger
Corbyn Ellis
Alaina Esposito
Eva Essman

Nevaeh Faison
Mackenzie Farrance
Lucette Feigley
Niyogushima Fiston
Avery Flactiff
Honor Ford
Gavin Gasper

BLENDDED VS. REMOTE LEARNING

Q A

What are the challenges to starting 9th grade remotely and in blended learning?

Kaitlyn Jacoby
"So far, this year, having to do everything online."

Ian Regur
"Staying motivated to get my work done before the day it is due is the challenging aspect of 9th grade. This is the most challenging because I am not at school, so I want to do everything else but the work."

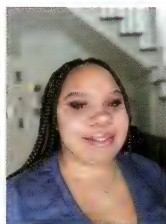
Kaytlyn Booras
"Sometimes trying to stay motivated, depending on what it is."

Madelyn Kress
"Doing class online is really hard and stressful."

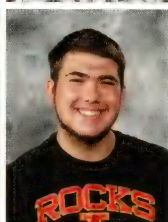
Gracie Scheper
"Probably the missing work. In middle school, the teachers let you turn things in late and it wouldn't really affect your grade."

Joseph Brown
"The homework because there is a lot more."

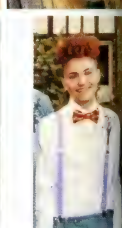
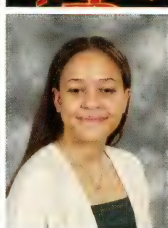
Jade Gasper
Drake Gean
Gabriella Gonzalez
Nayeli Graves
Dillon Gray
Lauren Groene
Haley Gruner



Madjid Gunashev
Eli Gustafson
Luke Gustafson
Eric Hantz
Kyana Hardge
Alexis Hayes
Lillian Hayes



Ku Say He
Abigail Hillyer
Blythe Hinton
Roxanne Hobert
John Holland
Thomas Honeycutt
TJ Houston



SUIT UP for the ROCKS

Q
A
What is it like to wear a Rocky jersey for the first time?



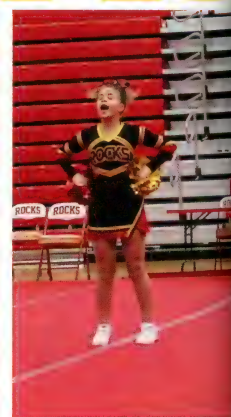
"The first time I wore my tennis jersey, it felt awesome, like I was finally a part of something bigger than myself."
- Alayna McKinley



"The first time I wore my Rocky jersey, it was very exciting. It was the first moment I truly felt like a Rocky student, because corona took that away."
- Asia Stern



"When I was able to play for Rocky on the tennis team, it really helped me feel more like a part of the team, and like I was able to follow in my brothers' footsteps."
- Alaina Esposito



"I was definitely excited, but I was also nervous because now my stats are representing Rocky, and not just myself, so I felt some pressure to be great."
- Kenedi Young



Gabriella Howard
Wah Hsee
Dah Htoo
Hae Htoo
Jaydon Hudson
Emily Hummel
Alexander Jackson

Dezmund Jackson
Mark Jackson
Sean-Anthony Jackson
Kaitlyn Jacoby
Terrianna Jamison
Julian Jimenez
Devyn Jones

Mackenzie Jones
Dajanique Kelley
Andrew Kerno
Joy Kitterman
Seth Kraus
Alaina Kress
Eh Ku

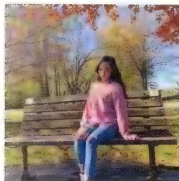
He Ku Say
Chad LaMay
Lani Laster
Landon Lawver-Andrews
Lennon Lawver-Andrews
Riley Levan
Kasey Linder

INSPIRING INSTRUCTORS

ROCKY'S FRESHMEN EXPLAIN WHICH TEACHERS HAVE HELPED THEM ADJUST TO ROCKY THE MOST.

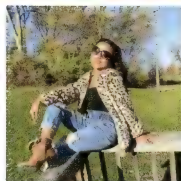
"Mrs. Greenwood has helped me a lot. She has always helped me on important things, has helped me with anything I have needed, and she gets back to me very quickly. Her caring personality and her ability to help students succeed is what I like about her."

David Ford



"Mrs. Nerud helps me whenever I need help with something. I email her, and she helps me solve my problems. She seemed very helpful, which I liked."

LaDerricka Nephew



"Mr. Wayland has helped me by being fair when taking tests. He is always willing to help if I made a mistake on a test or need help on an assignment. His kindness made me like him."

Alayna McKinley



"Mrs. Ramirez is the teacher who has helped me most. She always tells us, 'Good job,' whenever we did stuff right, and it was motivating. She is very kind and motivating."

Asia Stern



"Mrs. Gonzalez has helped me a lot. I never really liked math or understood it until I met her. She explains her work very well for students to understand. She is fun to be in class with, and she always has a positive energy."

Poe Dah Wah



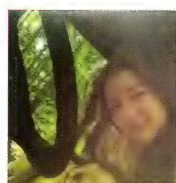
"A teacher that has helped me, so far, is my Spanish teacher, Mr. Behnke, because I thought Spanish was going to be hard to comprehend, but he makes sure you are understanding what he is teaching you."

Cienna Reed



"The teachers who have helped me the most are Mr. Williams, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Figgs, and Ms. Gonzalez."

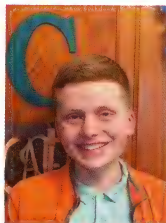
Kailyn Eichelberger



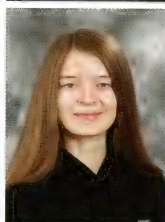
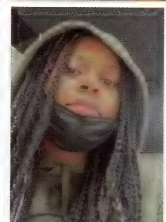
Freshman Fresh Start

Having to start off freshman year remotely is very difficult for incoming freshmen. Luckily for them, Rock Island High School has some amazing teachers, who are more than happy to help them through this stressful moment, and inspire them to give school their all, even if it may not be the way they wanted it to be.

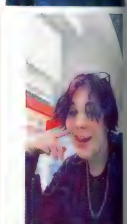
Caleb Lindsey
Kalai Lion
Alexander Lloyd
Julian Lopez
Hudson Love
Tyree Madison
Ogiste Maombi



Brayden Marshall
Chit Maung
Gillian Maxey
Nadia McCaw
Leia McConchie
Alayna McKinley
Elijah McRae



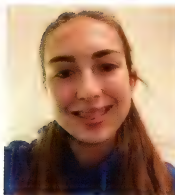
Owen Michaels
Ella Mlekush
Eh Moo
Lah Moo
Ta Moo
Shalom Moore
Starr Moore



Sireniy Morales
William Morris
Bella Mpawenimana
Rashaad Muskeyvalley
Sandrine Nduwimana
Hope Nipper
Man Nuam



I WISH I WAS IN



Eva Essman
 "I would say Montana. I've never been there, and it has great scenery. Right now, in the midst of a pandemic, it appears to be kind of isolated, so I could, in a sense, take a break from COVID."



Addie Bomelyn
 "If I could travel anywhere right now, I would go to Bora Bora. Why I would go there is mainly because I've always wanted to travel there, but also because it's warm, and I love being in the ocean."



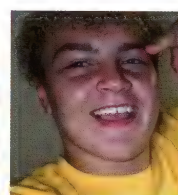
Payten Bunch
 "If I could go anywhere, I would go to Florida, so I can see family."



Alaina Esposito
 "If I could go anywhere right now, I would go to Hawaii. I have family that lives there that I have never met, and the only time I have been there, I was too young to remember."



William Morris
 "If I could go anywhere, I would go to China because I like the culture."



Isaiah Samuelson
 "If I could go anywhere, I would go to Florida because of the nice weather."



Corbyn Ellis
 "I would want to go to Atlanta! My family is down there, and there are so many more opportunities for academics and athletics."



Faith O'Brien
Larry Olivier
Angel Orellana
Lucy Oviatt
Eh Paw
Lah Hser Paw
Ely Perez

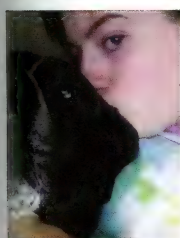
Jayden Putnam
Smay Rai
Leticia Ramirez
Analice Rea
Cienna Reed
E. Reedy
Autumn Reese

Yolonda Richardson
Jackson Ritz
Rickey Robinson
Cheyenne Rodriguez
Angel Rodriguez Jacobo
Angel Rodriguez Jacobo
Jimena Romero-Escamilla

Aaliyah Ross
Khadija Sakho
Isaiah Samuelson
Miebinge Sango
Gracie Schepher
Presley Scott
Amalia Serrano

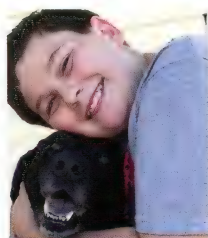
IN GOOD COMPANY

Rocky freshmen talk about their pets,
who keep them company in eLearning.



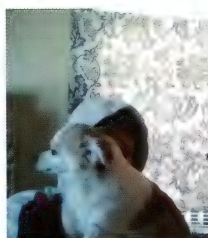
"German Shepherd, Dalmatian, Pit Bull mix, and his name is Grunt."

Lailony Cook



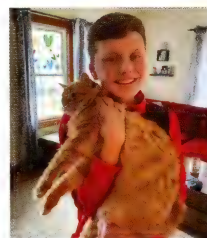
"Cooper, my Lab, keeps me company during remote learning."

Zach Draper



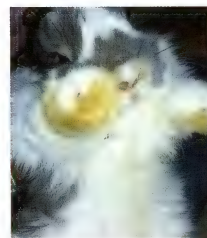
"I have a chihuahua, Sassy."

Hunter Verdeyen



"Norman James Lindsey is his name, and he is my long orange hair tabby."

Caleb Lindsey



"I have a bunny, and her name is Bugsy."

Kyra Allen



"Yes, I have a pet frog. His name is Og, and he only needs to be fed twice a week."

Lucette Feigley

DeAndrew Severs
Bailey Sholl
Ashlynn Simmons
Brendan Smith
Tyler Spence
Hunter St Amand
Mersades St. Clair



Spencer Staggs
Gary Stamper
Alivia Stanley
Cheyane Stanley
Asia Stern
Ke'Erica Stewart
Mary Stockdale



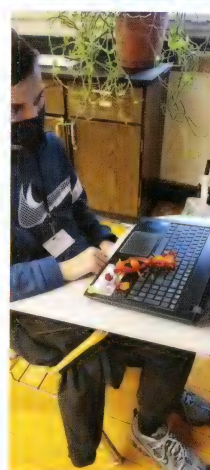
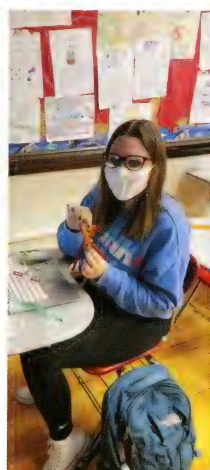
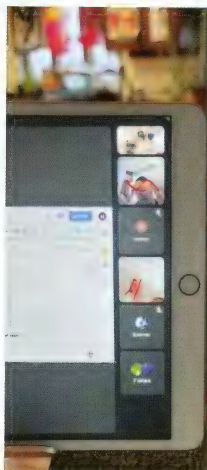
Autumn Stone
Ma'Liyah Taylor
Lydia Thomer
Kelsey Thornburg
Mallory Timm
Kierstin Truschke
Chloe Turner



Daryn Untiedt
Emmalee VanThournout
Jacob Venegas
Truth Vesey
Arek Viernow
Brianna Wade



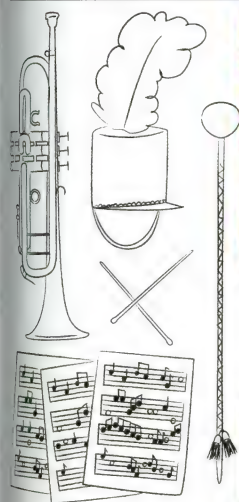
Virtual Science Labs for the class of 24





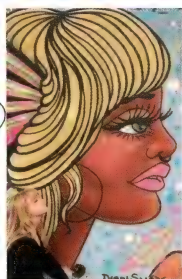
Egan Westmorland
James Westmorland
John Wilde
Parker Williams
Mayani Wilondja
LaTonyiah Wilson
Cody Wolf

Kaliyah Woods
Maisy Woods
Alejandra Zetina

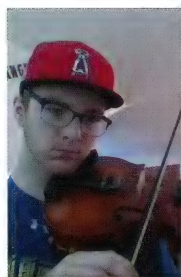


A GREAT TRADITION

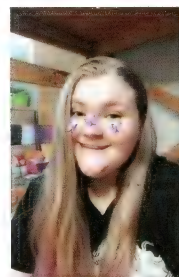
As a part of RIHS, Rocky's freshmen become a part of the school's well known musical tradition.



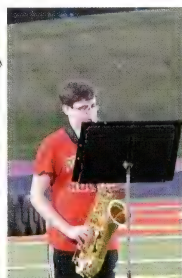
Lauren Groene
"I've been in choir all throughout middle school, and it's something I've absolutely loved. I've been singing for as long as I can remember. The first time I heard about Chamber Choir, I knew I wanted to belong. I worked as hard as I could 7th and 8th grade, and now, here I am, as a freshman girl, in the Chamber Choir, and still working hard. I'm so proud of myself for achieving something that I've wanted for awhile now."



Jackson Bennett
"The Orchestra at Rocky is much more advanced and interactive than any other orchestra that I've participated in."



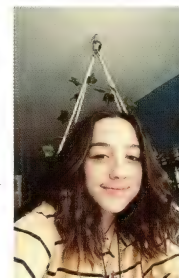
Blythe Hinton
"It's been so incredibly fun. I've met some of my closest friends because of band, and I can't wait to see what adventures we go on in life."



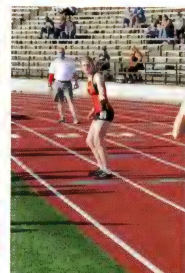
Kiefer Chandler
"Participating in Rocky's musical programs for the first time has been fun and different from anything I have done before."



Kal Boswell
"At first, it was hard to get the hang of the online format, but once I got into it, it was great!"



Delaney Carroll
"It has been really fun! While I've been able to learn more and better myself, I've also been able to make new friends, and simply bond over our shared passion of singing!"



#GOALS



"To meet new friends, have good grades, and prepare myself for the future."

Asia Stern



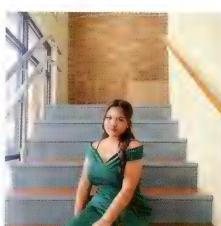
"To finish with great grades, feel like I had fun, and to be noticed by colleges."

Chloe Turner



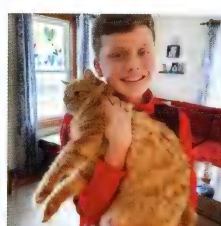
"To get a good GPA and get a scholarship."

Hunter St Amand



"Graduate school, stay smart, and live a long life."

Man Nuam



"My goals are to get good grades, to participate in sports and activities, and to go to most of the school events, and make a lot of friends. :)"

Caleb Lindsey

*RIHS FRESHMEN
SHARE THEIR
GOALS FOR THEIR
TIME AT THE ROCKIES*



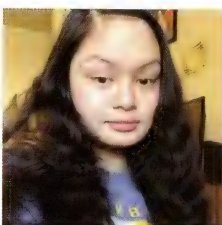
"I want to be productive and always get all my work done."

Delaney Carroll



"Try to work hard and succeed."

Zachery Draper



"To enjoy it the best I can."

Poe Dah Wah



"To maintain the highest grades and continue focusing on me."

Jade Gasper



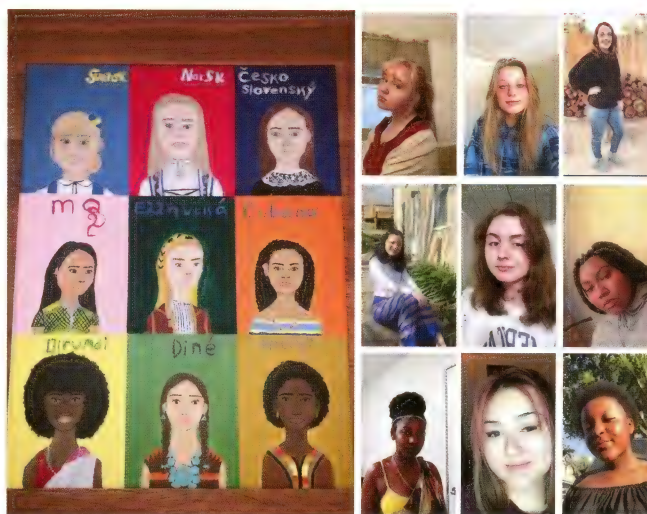
"To maintain straight A's, graduate from Rockies, and pursue my career in college."

Addie Bomelyn

Celebrating Our Cultures With Art

A freshman here at Rock Island High School is taking her art to the next level. Lauren Groene painted a large compilation of portraits of herself and her classmates. The main goal of the piece is to celebrate her friends' culture and diversity.

"I've fallen in love with my own Swedish heritage over the past few years. My appreciation and love for my own cultural background has eventually widened to an appreciation and love for all cultures and backgrounds. Rock Island is such a beautifully diverse area, and getting to experience and witness other cultures has been such a blessing," says Groene. The piece includes portraits of herself, Norah Wright (9), Ella Mlekush (9), Ntiruvakure Dinye (9), Sentia Nishimwe (9), AJ Stigers (10), K'mwee Su (10), Jaysha Cribb (10), and finally Alison Karzin (9), who attends Moline High School.



Freshmen

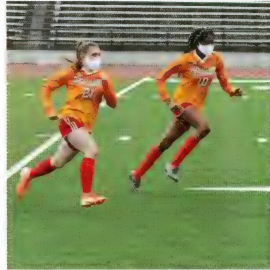


STUDY *snacks*

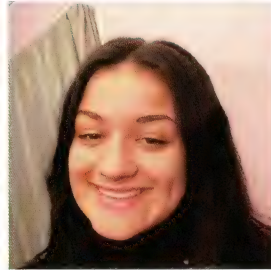
FRESHMEN
SHARE THEIR
GO TO
SNACKS



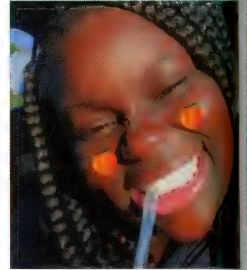
"Cheez Itz."
Josie Driskill



"Pumpkin bars."
Jade Gasper



"Waffles and fruit."
Lydia Thomer



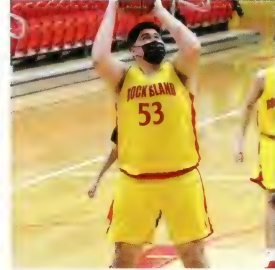
"Pringles."
Deborah Kalonda



"Tea, and Vaniljakor (Swedish vanilla cookies)."
Lauren Groene



"Garlic Parmesan Pretzel Crisps!"
Alaina Esposito



"Gushers."
Alex Romo



A+ *advice*



Q
A

What is your
advice to
next year's
freshmen?

"Turn your work in on time, and don't be afraid to ask for help, so that you can get good grades."
- Markeisha Atwater

"Get your work turned in. Don't be late for class, and come in for help to get help with your homework."
- Dominick Eckmann-Allred

"Stick with good friends, and don't go down the wrong path. It will all be worth it in the end."
- Alaina Kress.

"I would say keep up on all homework. It can be easy to fall behind."
- Larry Olivier

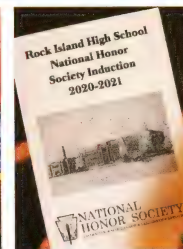
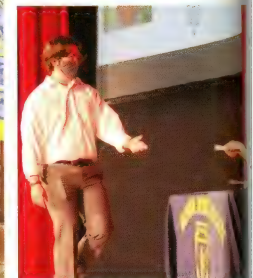
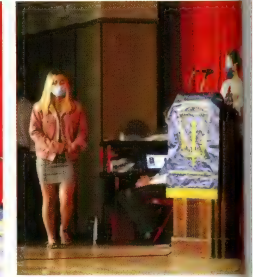
"I would tell incoming freshmen to be sure to stay up to date on school work."
- Ma'Liyah Taylor

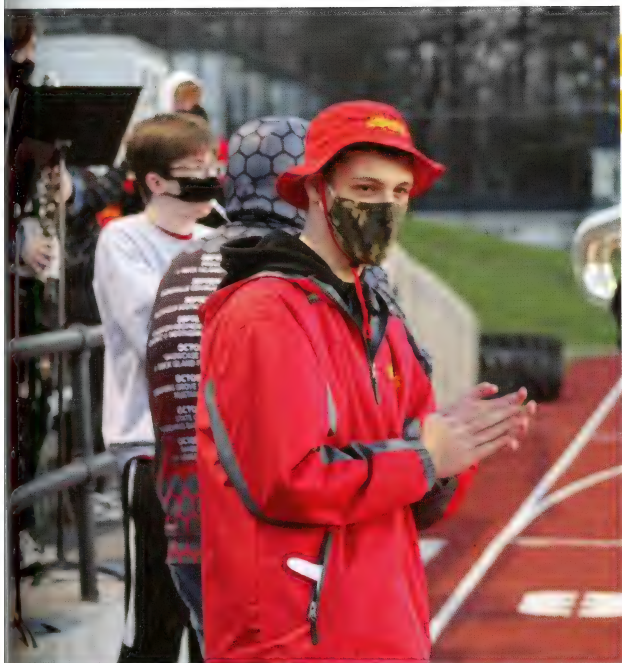
"I would say don't be afraid to be yourself. You can also learn a lot from others."
- Asia Stern



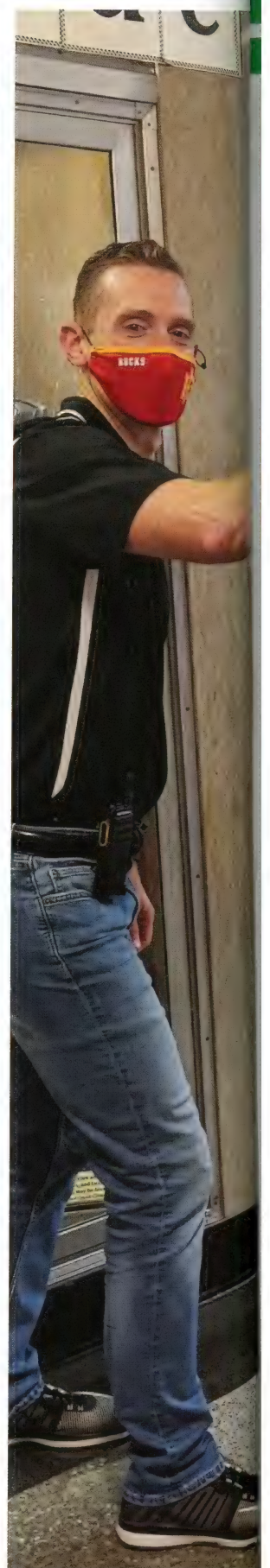
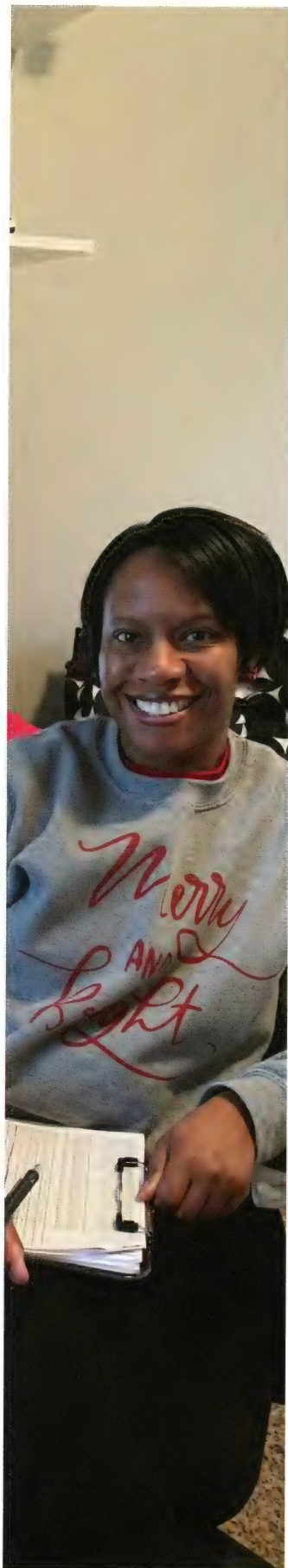
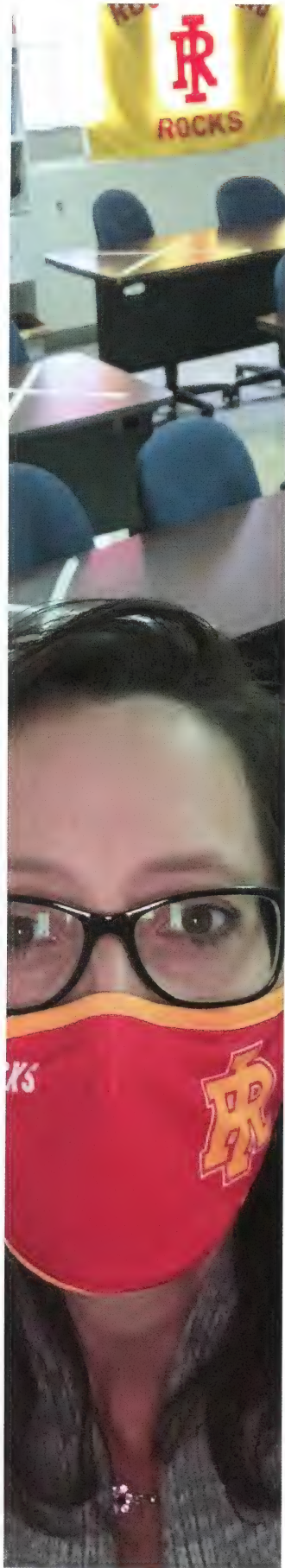
FRESHMAN ATHLETES

Senior National Honor Society Ceremony





PEP BAND *returns*

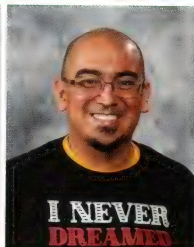




This year, for faculty, our homes became our classrooms. We taught from at home offices, kitchen tables, and couches for part of the year. When we did return, we had to change how we set up our classrooms. No more group work. No more moving around the classrooms like usual. We kept our students distanced, but we understand the distance kept them safe. We got used to speaking on camera through Google Meets. While we missed the every day interactions, we appreciated the questions and comments through our online classrooms. In January, we were so excited to see our students wander the halls again, even though our days looked different. We wore masks, but we hoped our students still knew we were smiling and happy to see them. We tried to instill some Rocky pride into our days, and even with the strange year, we hope our students know how proud we are of them.



Mr. Allison



Mr. Almanza



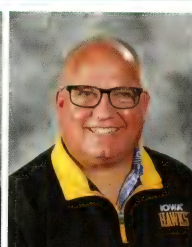
Mrs. Alvarez



Mrs. Arnold



Ms. Attebery



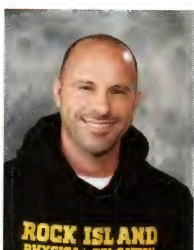
Mr. Behnke



Ms. Bisom



Mrs. Bohling



Mr. Bollaert



Mr. Campbell



Mrs. Castaneda



Mr. Catterton



Mrs. Chewning



Miss Churchill



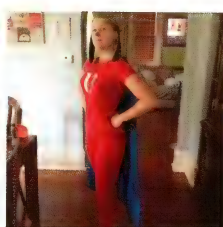
"I was always obsessed with the X-Men, and the idea of every day people being born with special abilities. And, my favorite was Rogue because she was able to absorb memories, powers, and abilities from others."

Mrs. Resch



"I choose Batman because I like the way he talks, especially the Lego version."

Mr. Campbell



"Underdog! First, he's a dog, so that's a win. Second, no one ever expects anything from him, and he always shows up. Lastly, when he is not in his superhero role, he dresses very dapper!"

Mrs. Matherly

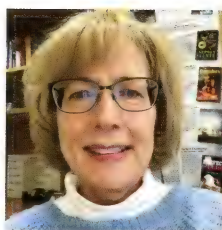


"Mrs. Mertel and I were able to visit Tanzania a few years ago, and had the opportunity to meet a local tribe of the Maasai group. One other reason I love Black Panther is that the tribes of Wakanda were modeled after actual traditional African cultures."

Mr. Mertel

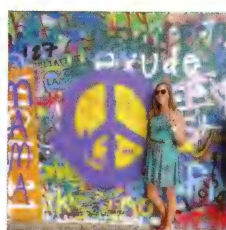
OUR SUPER STAFF

Rocky's staff explains which superheroes they wish they could be.



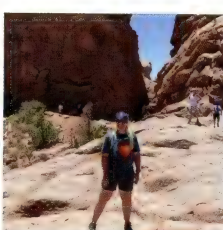
"My favorite superhero is Batman. He is always in the right place at the right time, upholding justice, and rescuing people in peril. And, he has a cool car."

Mrs. Pearson



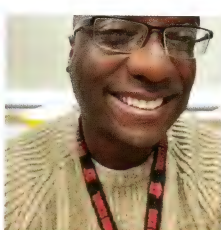
"I feel like I have to be predictable and say WONDER WOMAN because she is awesome, and has the 'Lasso of Truth', which would be sweet to have a device that would force everyone to be honest."

Mrs. Randolph



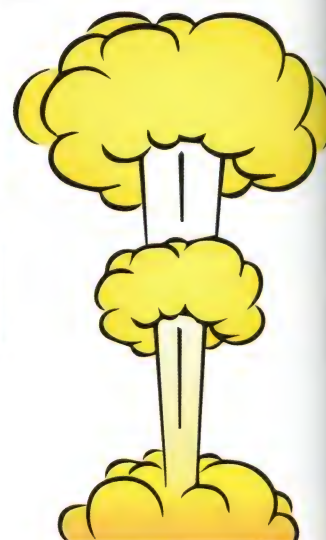
"I would be Wonder Woman because she is a powerful and strong woman."

Mrs. Vroman



"If I could be a superhero, I'd be Superman, so I could fly anywhere I wanted, and help people."

Mr. Williams





Mrs. Cooley



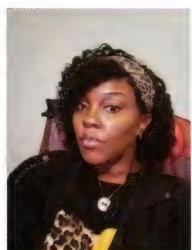
Mr. Corwin



Mr. Coyne-Logan



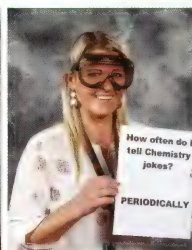
Mrs. Crowder



Mrs. Davis



Mrs. Dempsey-Rohr



Mrs. Dennis



Miss Denton



Mrs. Dieudonne



Mr. Dunker



Mr. Dyer



Mrs. Dyer



Mr. Eli



Mr. Figgs



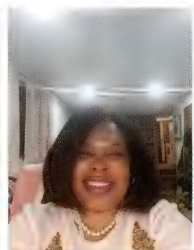
Mr. Ford



Mrs. Foster



Ms. Gonzalez



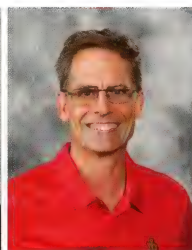
Dr. Grandberry-Pugh



Mrs. Grayson



Mrs. Greenwood



Mr. Gustafson

Rocky Teachers' Fashion Features



"I love colorful capris and a simple top. Comfort is the key!"
- Mrs. Stribling



"My favorite teacher outfit is my book skirt paired with my 'The book was better' t-shirt."
- Ms. Denton



"My favorite teacher outfit is the one that allows me to show off my Rocky Pride."
- Mr. Williams



"A shirt, a scarf, and a cardigan because the temp in my room can vary so much."
- Mrs. Young



"My favorite teacher outfit is on Fridays, when I get to wear my German Club t-shirt and jeans."
- Herr Eli



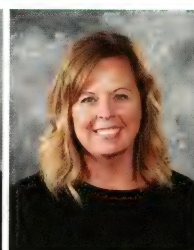
Mr. Hains



Mr. Hakizimana



Mr. Hammer



Mrs. Harms



Mrs. Hanrahan



Mr. Harrison



Mrs. Hayek



Mrs. Hornick



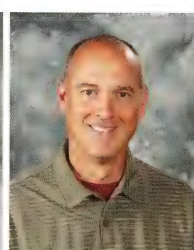
Mrs. Jackson



Mr. Johnson



Mrs. Johnson



Mr. Joseph



Mr. Kennelly



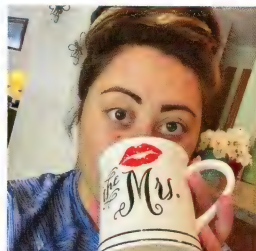
Dr. Kirgan

Don't Worry - Be Frappe



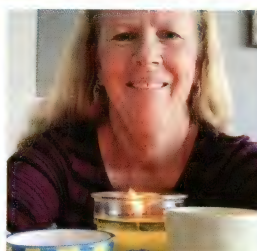
Mrs. Hayek

"These mugs are the ones I used most at home. I do appreciate adventure, and I want to see others in good spirits. I also have my serious, quiet, reflective moments like Eeyore."



Mrs. Nelson

"I like to remind my husband every morning that a happy wife is a good life."



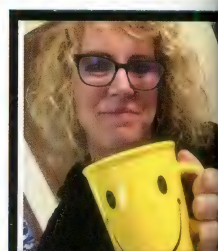
Mrs. Degreve

"Mug 1 is from my sister-in-law, who was my best friend. At the time I received it, I loved it. I was always cautious with the usage of the mug, as it was a gift from the heart. After she unexpectedly passed away 10 years ago, I put the mug away so nothing would happen to it. Mug 2 is from my daughter, whom I dearly love, and have grown to love her friendship as an adult, as well."



Mrs. Dempsey

"It's a huge metal tumbler, since it's the biggest I could find, and I need a lot of coffee every morning to get me going."

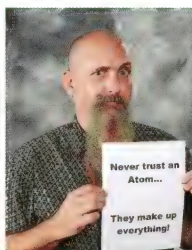


Mrs. Anderson

"My mom always reminded us of the Abraham Lincoln quote, 'Folks are usually about as happy as they make their minds up to be.' So when I wake up in the morning, I surround myself with things that make me happy- including this mug! puts me in the right mindset before I interact with my students and everyone else in my life. I choose to be positive and happy."



Mrs. Lack



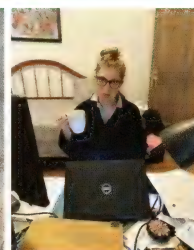
Mr. LaRoche



Ms. Martens



Mrs. Mathena



Mrs. Matherly



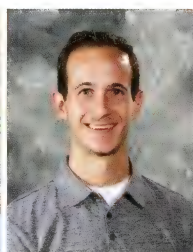
Mrs. Matson



Mrs. McClendon



Mrs. Mendelin



Mr. Mertel



Mrs. Mertel



Mrs. Mewes



Ms. S. Miers



Ms. M. Miers

Inspiring the Rocks: One By One



Mrs. Young

"I feel that I can have the biggest impact on my students by building relationships. I do this by creating a welcoming environment that is a space that students want to be. For me, that means comfortable seating, decorations, motivational signs, and also having other items that students might need to make them comfortable. The reason this is important is because I believe it helps students believe me when I say I am there for them, love them, and want what is best for my students. Establishing relationships with students is the most important piece. If I can't do that, there is not much of a possibility for them to learn."



Mrs. Stribling

"I feel like creating a trusting relationship with students is the most important. If students know they can trust their teacher, and ask them questions, then learning comes easier, and impacts their grade."



Mrs. Randolph

"If you are wondering what has the greatest impact on students, overall, I would say that is their family and choice of friends. These two groups spend much more time with a student than I do...so, no matter how much I try to help a student in my classroom -to build them up, hold them accountable, and try to ingrain within them the belief that they can do anything-if they go home every night to a terrible home life, or are in constant communication with peers who are a negative influence, all of the positive progress I have tried to make with them will quickly fall to the wayside. I can only do so much for 50 minutes a day, five days a week; I really only see most of my students for just over 4 hours each week. So what they do and who they surround themselves with out of my realm makes the most impact on them."



Mrs. Anderson

"To be honest, I think the things that impact the students the MOST have nothing to do with academic knowledge. Don't get me wrong, academics are incredibly important. But the aspect of our jobs that makes the GREATEST difference for students is being a role model. Each day, I show kids how to keep a positive attitude, to manage stress, to work hard and enjoy working, to embrace other humans, to set goals, to celebrate life, and how to appreciate others and be grateful for the little things. I demonstrate how to be curious and enthralled by the wonders of nature, and how to recognize and protect our vulnerable Earth and all of the precious creatures around us. I model good manners, love for learning, creativity, kindness, love, tolerance, spirituality, and strength."



Ms. Miers

"I think building relationships with the kids is the most important thing we can do as teachers. If kids don't feel comfortable in your class, they probably won't learn the material or be willing to participate in class. Kids probably won't remember everything I said or taught them in class, but they will remember how I treated them."



Ms. Miller-DeDecker



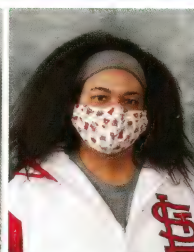
Miss Moody



Mrs. Morgan



Mrs. Oswald



Mrs. Parer



Mrs. Pearson



Ms. Ramirez



Mr. Randle



Mrs. Randolph



Mrs. Regan



Mrs. Rel



Mrs. Resch

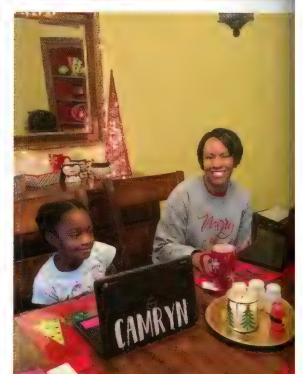
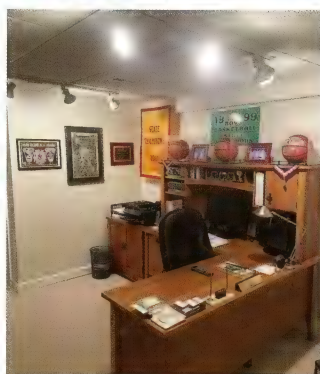
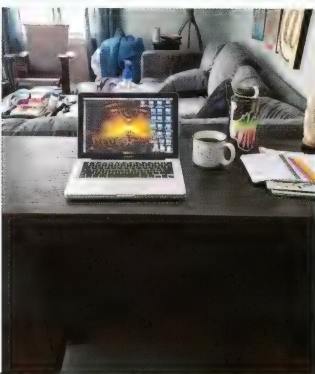
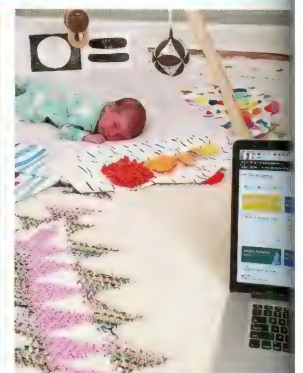
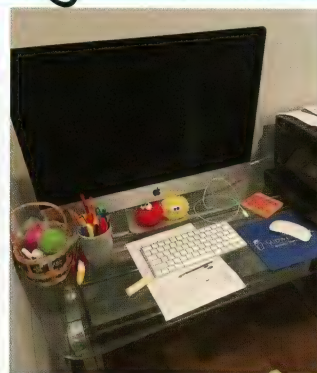
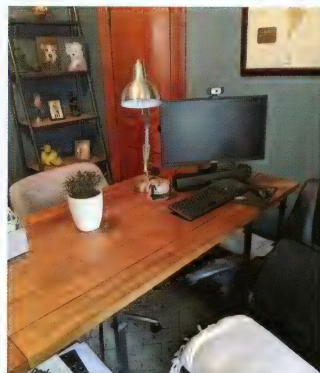
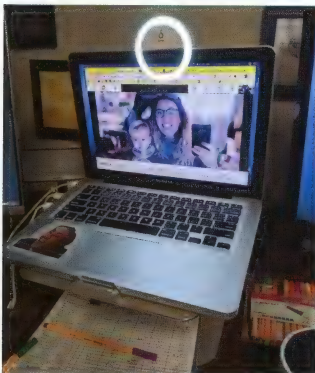


Mr. Resner



Mr. Riccio

Teachers Working from Home!





Mr. Rice



Ms. Miley



Ms. Rivera



Mr. Rogers



Mr. Schriefer



Mr. Schwab



Mr. Sebben



Mr. Sharp



Mr. Sigel



Ms. Sprague



Mr. Stone



Mrs. Stribling



Mrs. Terronez



Mr. Thies

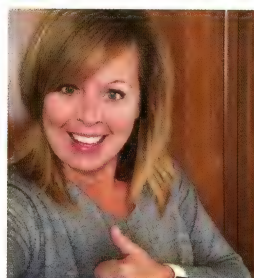
MATCH THE TEACHER TO THE BITMOJI



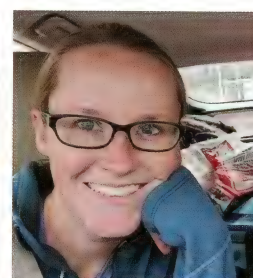
Mrs. Young



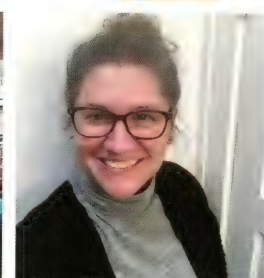
Mrs. Grayson



Mrs. Harms



Mrs. Churchill



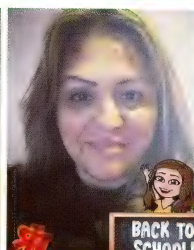
Mrs. Foster



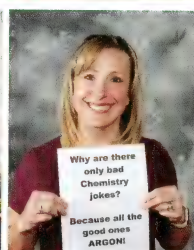
Mr. Thompson



Mrs. Thompson



Mrs. Trigueros



Mrs. Trimble



Ms. Trimble



Mrs. Vankirk



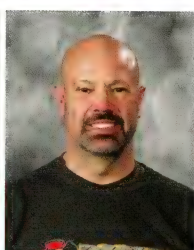
Ms. Vega



Mrs. Vroman



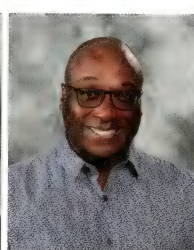
Mr. Wayland



Mr. Weber



Mr. Whitaker



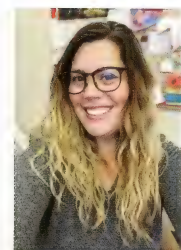
Mr. Williams



Mrs. Woods



Mrs. Wyers



Mrs. Young

A Quick Learner

Mr. Chad Quick, Rocky grad and paraprofessional, is no stranger to the Rocky school year. This year, however, was an adjustment for the veteran para. Mr. Quick can usually be found zooming from class to class (he lives up to his last name), to help students. Often clad in Illinois, Rocky, Chicago Bears, or Chicago Bulls gear, Mr. Quick is excited each day to help his students. This year, however, he had to help from home for the first semester. For the always positive Quick, that change was hard. "My biggest adjustment is not seeing the students in person to interact with them. Special education students need that in person contact with their teachers," Quick explains. While he was able to use Google Classroom and Google Meets to help his students, Quick missed the classroom. "I miss interacting and socializing with the Rock Island Staff. I also miss my students in the morning and working with them one on one," Quick stated. However, Quick understood the need to stay home and distance. In January, Quick was eager to come back and get back to work in the classroom. The school was happy to see Mr. Quick again, speeding from room to room, this time, with a mask showing support for his favorite teams, but surely with a smile underneath.





Rocky's Teachers Explain What it is Like to Teach in a Pandemic



For everyone else, the pandemic turned my life upside down. I am a very hands-on teacher, so I made communication my number one priority. I have been there for my students academically and emotionally, and I will continue."

Mrs. Anderson

It's like nothing I've ever experienced before. I had to completely change the way I teach and engage with my students. I love seeing my students every day, in person, so this past year has been incredibly difficult."

Mrs. Greenwood

It has been the strangest school year I have ever been a part of. It's hard to teach PE from a computer screen."

Mr. Hoover

Teaching during the pandemic was stressful and frustrating, at first, but once we all got a handle on how it worked, and got into a groove, it's been going well! I've learned how to use technology in different ways than before to make classes fun and learning easier."

Mrs. Grayson

The commute was great, but I missed the interaction with my students so much."

Mrs. Attebery

It has been very challenging teaching during the pandemic. It is hard to get in touch with the students, and to be able to meet their needs. Not all of the students attended the live lessons or could come to school during the blended days. Helping our students reach their potential has been difficult."

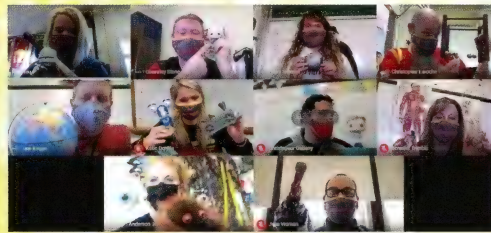
Mrs. Matson

It has been a challenging year for us all. As a teacher, I was faced with the challenge of trying to figure out how to translate my class materials into a virtual format. I spent a lot of time this summer educating myself on how to best use Google classroom, doing professional development over my content, and trying new techniques to deliver my materials. I know many teachers won't agree with me, but I actually liked using all of the technology. It was sad that we had such low attendance when I was working SO HARD to create everything from scratch, but I changed my mental space, and instead, looked at it as an opportunity to try new things."

Mrs. Young

Teaching has its highs and lows. I can be home with my children, but I can't be in the class with my students. Teaching a language can be hard to manage, but I thank my students for doing their best."

Mrs. Regan



**RIHS
SCIENCE DEPT.
2020-21**

Raising A Future Rock



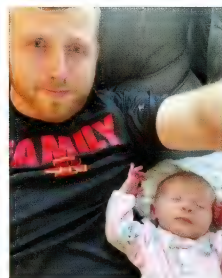
ARTHUR PARER.

Born September 2020.
"You know that feeling you get when you are going up a steep incline on a roller coaster, and you keep going up and up and up, and you are super excited. You get to the top and look down, and then drop, and your stomach stays at the top of the incline, but you are having the time of your life as the roller coaster goes faster and faster and around the loops and up and down? That's pretty much it."
- Mrs. Parer



ARLEN RESCH.

Born March 2020
"Raising the next generation is extremely exciting and nerve-racking, all at the same time. It is exciting to see her grow up, and to watch her personality develop. I am so curious to know what kind of person she will become once she is high school age."
- Mrs. Resch



MACKENZIE CORWIN.

Born February 2021
"It's very special to raise a future Rock, and have her cheer on her dad and the Rocks at every football game."
- Mr. Corwin



AMINA NELSON.

Born November 2020
"It is the scariest, most rewarding and fulfilling thing I've ever done. I cannot wait for all of the coaches at Rocky to put off retirement until she graduates in 2038! :) "
- Mrs. Nelson



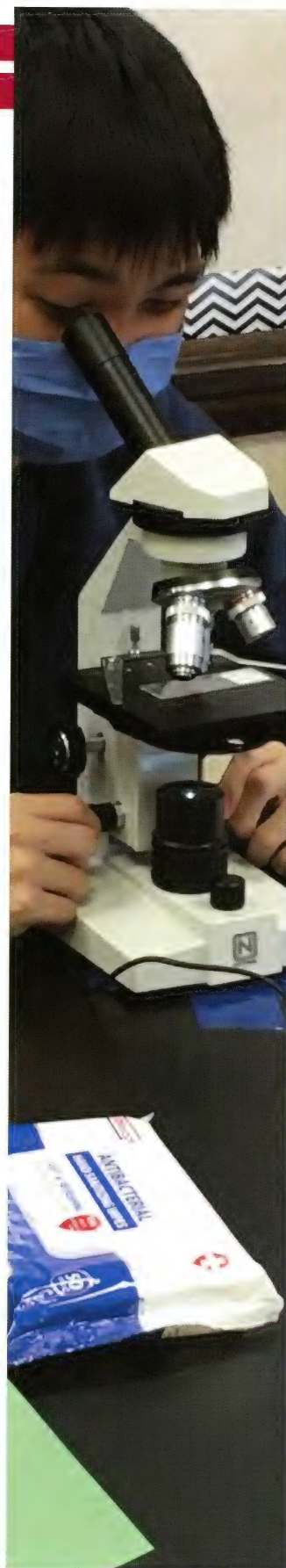
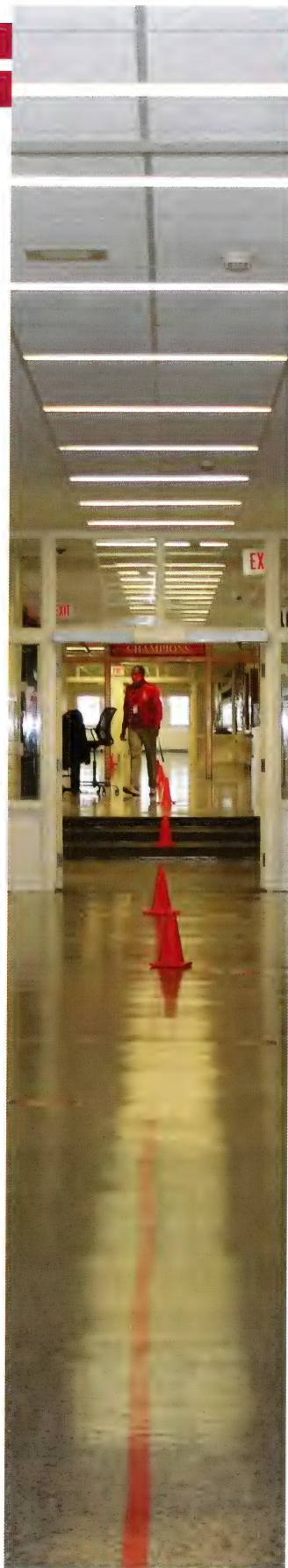
ROWAN MERTEL.

Born March 2021
"Raising a future Rock: It's made teaching that much more special, knowing that we'll soon be participating in the school district, not just as teachers, but also as parents. It's fun to think of all of the wonderful programs she'll be able to get involved with!"
- Mrs. Mertel



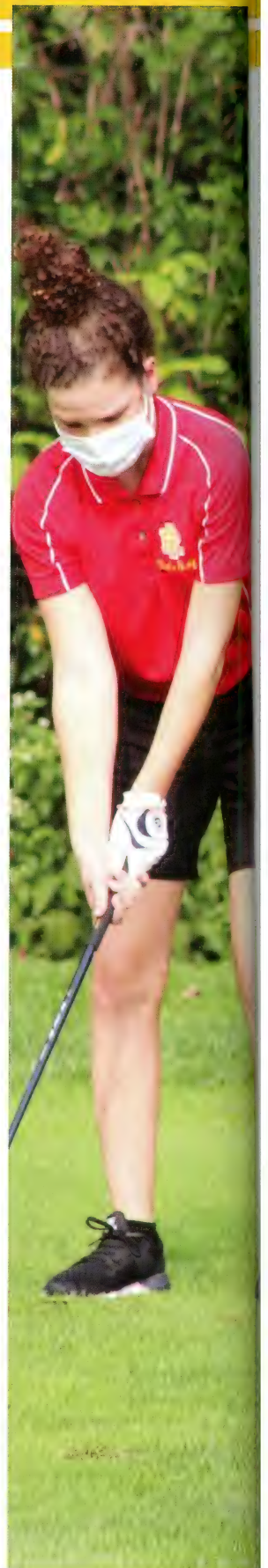
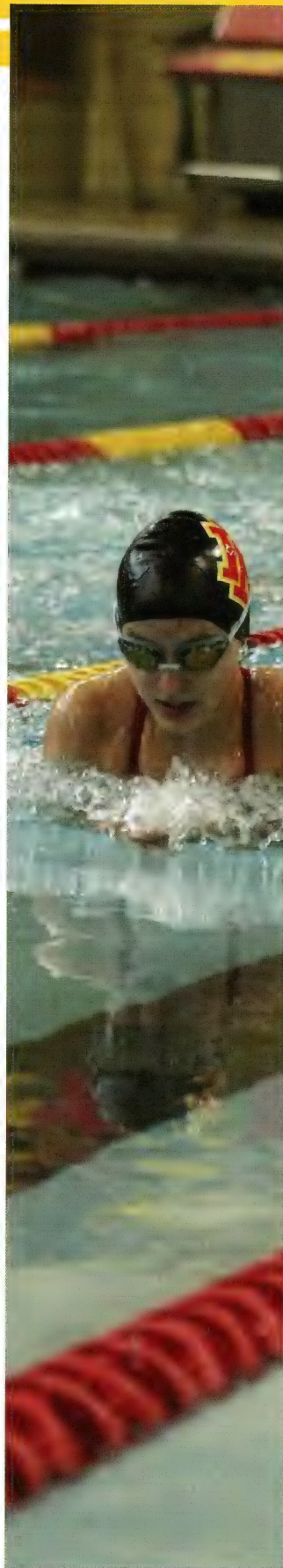
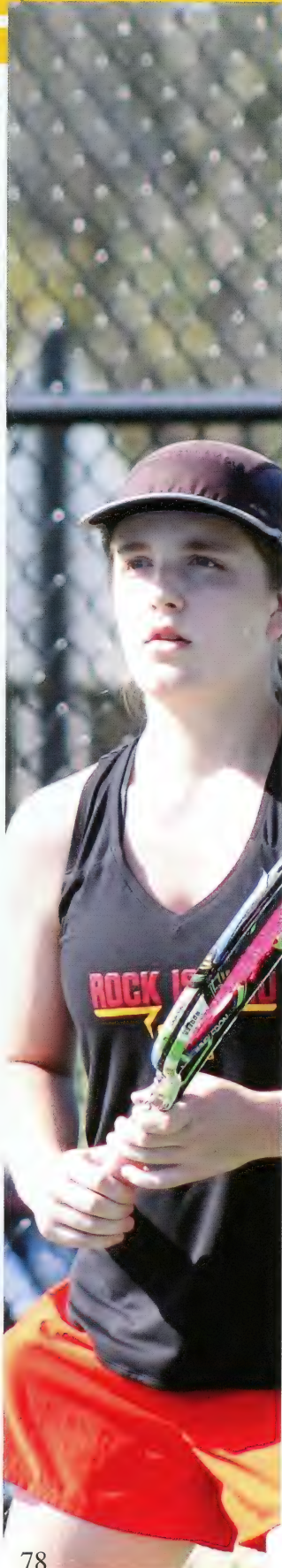
CLARA RANDOLPH.

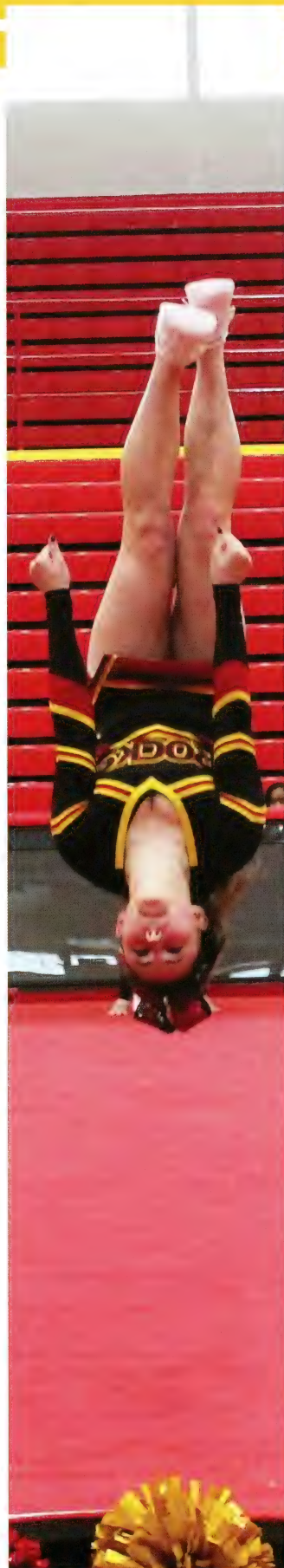
Born November 2020
"It gives me great pride to raise the next generation of Rocks! District 41 has such rich diversity, and talented teachers that I know Clara will learn everything she needs to know in order to be a successful, empathetic adult."
- Mrs. Randolph



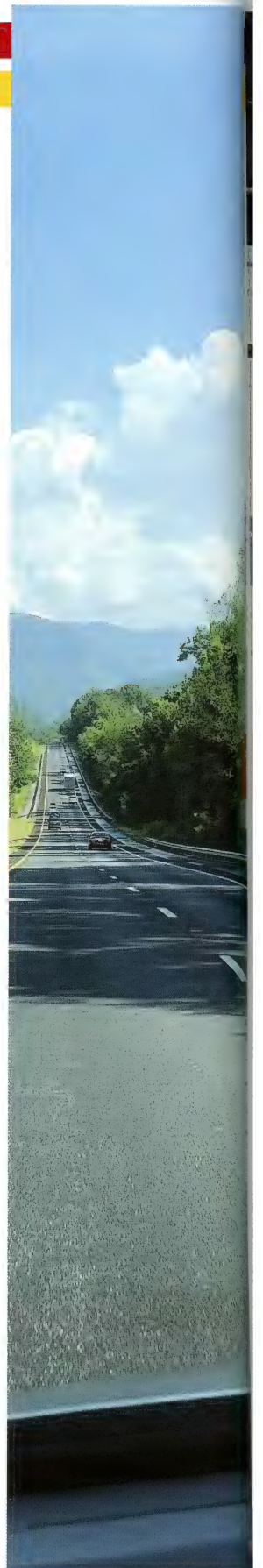
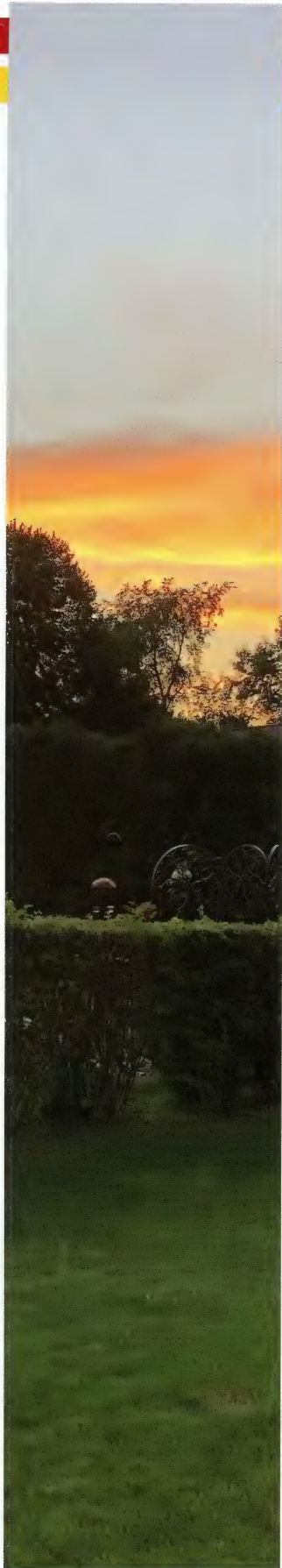


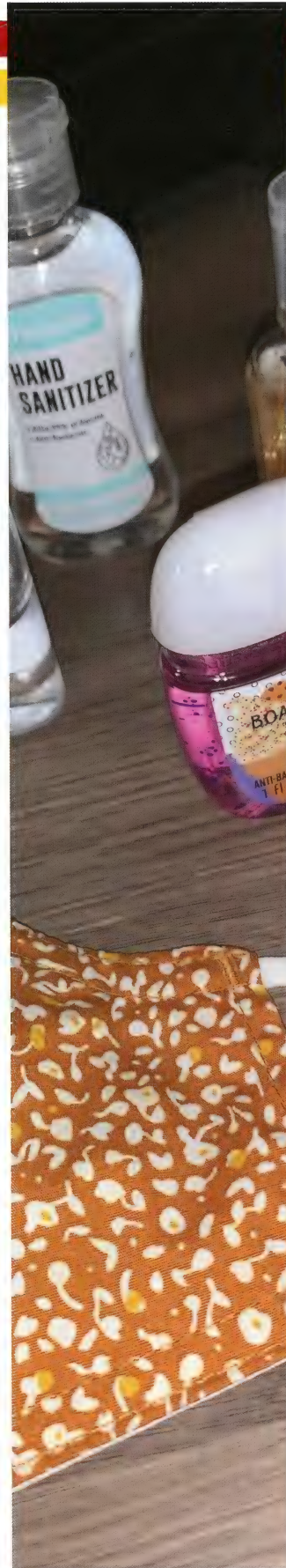
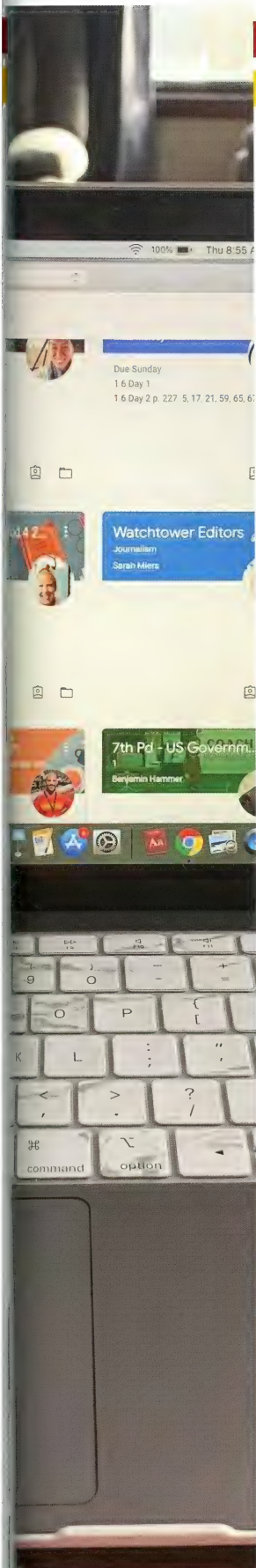
This school year has taught us that you can have Rocky Pride from anywhere, whether we are in the school, like usual, or at home. Rocky pride isn't something that just one person has, it's something that we are, and represent as a group. Being a Rock means so much to us! This year hasn't been easy on anybody, but together, we worked through it and had pride for our school along the way. With no Homecoming, no Prom, and no typical club activities, this year has been tough on us all. However, despite these challenges, we still had our Rocky pride. That pride means helping our community when times are hard and to make that community proud of us. It is being proud to wear the red and gold- no matter where we are. Students and staff at Rocky have done a great job keeping up with school spirit from home. With students and teachers setting up new at home desks, hanging out from a 6ft distance, making new masks, learning/teaching from a screen, this school year has looked very different in many ways. Despite all the changes and hardships this year, one aspect of our year hasn't changed. We are a team and we will always do our best to represent the Rocks, no matter the place.





At Rocky, we feel at home. We have a sense of place and of comfort. Our classrooms, our fields, our courts, our pools. These places belong to us. However, it's hard to realize how much this sense of place matters until you almost lose it. We had adjusted athletic schedules, canceled events and seasons, and strict distance and safety procedures to make sure we were healthy. These challenges made us discover how much Rocky, this place, is a part of who we are. We are athletes, who waited for our seasons. We are musicians, who were finally able to play our instruments and sing together in January. We are learning our future careers, just in an adjusted fashion. We have a new way of doing so many of our normal school activities now. We no longer have lockers. We follow arrows in the hall. We can't sit exactly next to our classmates. But we still have this place. We have the chance to continue doing what we love at Rocky, just with some slight adjustments. And, that opportunity to be here is worth it.





With the new school year approaching, students tried to remain hopeful that this would be a normal year of high school. We were hopeful that we could continue with Rocky traditions, such as attending football games and cheering on our team, wearing red and gold on Fridays to show our school pride, participating in school spirit week, and dressing up for basketball games on Friday nights. With COVID still in full effect, it was unsafe for us to return to school in August. We tried again in October, but finally returned in January. Although it wasn't what most of us wanted, online school has become almost like the new normal. While we might not all be at school, students have tried to make the best out of a bad situation by staying in touch with teachers and friends, and representing Rocky by wearing school gear at home. It's important for students to try to keep up and continue with school pride and traditions, so that students can still feel engaged with school while at home or in blended learning. Our school pride and traditions are so important because it can be easy to feel disconnected to the Rock when we aren't in a normal school year. Although our choices of what we can participate in are limited or we have changed schedules for our athletic seasons, finding something that you can do and will enjoy can really turn a bad situation into something good. Many of us have found hobbies, voted for the first time, played club sports, and continued our friendships that we found here at the Rock. We have lived through so much history this year, and coped with so many changes, while still trying to be normal high school students and proud Rocks.



RIHS BASEBALL TEAM 2020



RIHS SOFTBALL TEAM 2020



RIHS BOYS TRACK TEAM 2020



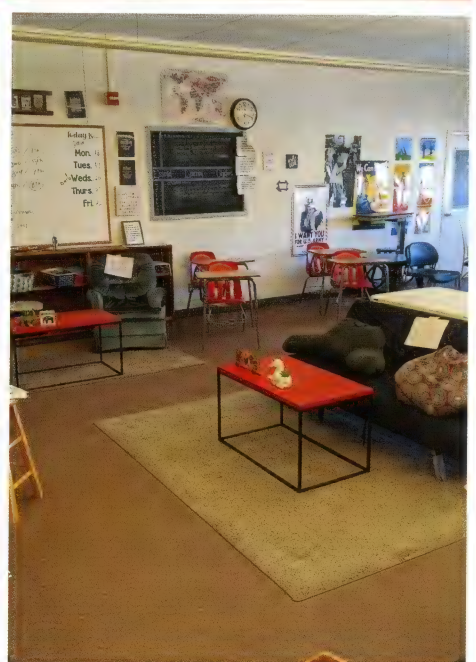
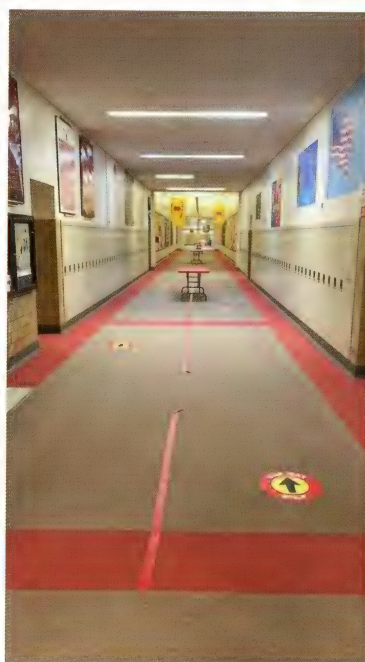
RIHS GIRLS TRACK TEAM 2020



RIHS GIRLS SOCCER TEAM 2020



RIHS BOYS TENNIS TEAM 2020



COVID VS. THE CLASSROOM

Rocky Teachers have made many adjustments to their classrooms to create safer workplaces for their students.

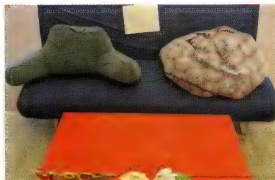
"I have not changed the look of my class. The room was already small and the desks were cramped. I tried to spread the desks out more, and I have tape on desks where students should not sit. The setup of my room doesn't affect how I conduct class, but I have tried very hard to stay in one place, so I don't stray too far away from the computer."

Mr. Williams



"One of my favorite things about my classroom is that I have flexible seating. Some of the choices available are futons, swivel comfy chairs, cushions, etc. But, due to COVID...those seats are closed. I am glad students get to be in my classroom, but I am sad that they do not get to experience the full atmosphere and collaborative setting that I have worked so hard in my space to create."

Mrs. Young



"I have half as many desks spread out 6 feet apart. I'm used to 30 plus students, and now I just have anywhere from 4 to 10 students. It is harder to do partner and group activities. I have hand sanitizer in several places. When I talk to students, I keep at least a foot away, and only for a minute or two. In the past, I would sit next to a student for as long as it took to help the student."

Mr. Behnke



"My room is a touch more rigid. The desks are lined up in rows, six feet apart, with several desks tucked away because there's not enough bodies to fill them and not enough room to leave them where they were."

Miss Denton

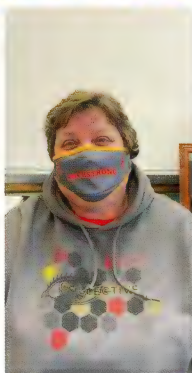


"I wanted to make my students feel as comfortable and happy as possible in my classroom during the time of COVID. I also wanted them to feel very safe! So, I tried to create "areas" instead of seats. I tried to do in-person dissection, but it is simply too tempting to get close to a student to answer their questions, and guide them in their work. I miss all the hugs and the smiles that are now hiding under masks. These obstacles make me worry more. I just keep praying and hoping, and relying on my faith that things will get better."

Mrs. Anderson



ROCK ISLAND MASKS



COVID19 CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL

To make sure students and staff are safe during in person learning during COVID-19, the staff at Rocky has had to use its spaces creatively for the new requirements and guidelines.

Although students don't get their normal school days anymore, those who choose to, get to go into school, even if it is for just a few hours a week. When students are at school, there are some changes to their days, starting with having to get their temperatures checked as soon as they get in the building. Students and staff have to wear face coverings and maintain a social distance of 6+ feet, as best they can throughout the day, as well. There are no water fountains open, and only a few bathrooms are still open for use.

In the classroom, teachers have spread out desks and made their classroom COVID friendly. Teachers also make sure every desk is wiped down after being in contact with students.



Library

The library is being used for students who show up to school on the wrong day. Students will wait in the library until they can get picked up.



Athletic Office

In addition to being the Athletic Office, the Athletic Office has been used for students who come into the school and have symptoms of COVID-19. Students go into the Athletic Office until they can be picked up from the building to go home.

Senior Wishes



"One thing that I took for granted was my junior year. I was gonna have my senior year, so I didn't make the most of all four years. Some advice that I would give to the future band is to step out of your comfort zone and make friends because band friends are probably some of the best you'll make!"

Brooke Farrance, 12

"In Marching Band, one thing that I took for granted was the constant late night rehearsals, full of laughing and silly memories. I always thought that I could have one more round of Marching Band, but sadly, that did not happen. Future advice for the Marching Band is to take pictures as often as you can and have no regrets."

Jonathan Knuth, 12

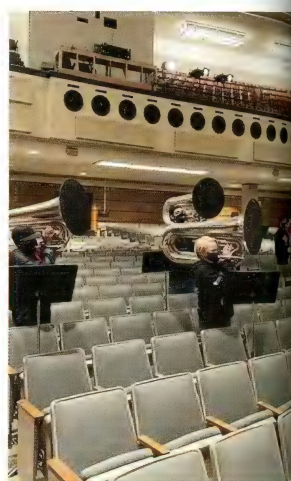
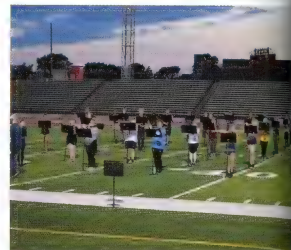
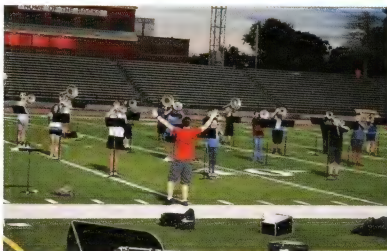


"Something I took for granted was the time I had in band. I always had the thought, 'I'll have next year. It'll be so much better.' Then, this year never happened, and it was my senior year, so it really hurt a lot. I'd tell my future Marching Band to always try your hardest and go all out when you can. Always do your best, and make friends and memories. It'll all be worth it in the end."

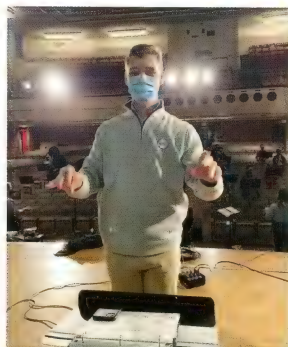
Isabel Drish, 12

"I definitely took for granted all the late night rehearsals and being with the band in good and bad weather. Some advice I have for the future Marching Band is just to take in every moment and take lots of pictures because it doesn't last long."

Kyle Gant, 12



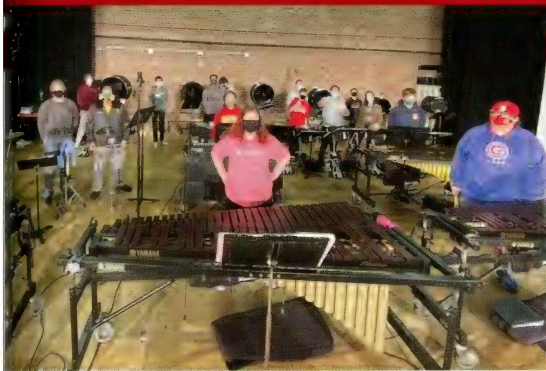
PRIDE PLACE



"Being in Marching Band gives me a sense of Rocky Pride because I am a part of the biggest extracurricular organization at the high school. I am able to represent my school and my town by winning on and off the field. The Marching Band has the most pride of any group at the high school. After all, we are the Pride of Rock Island!"

Calvin Banks, 12





One Band, One Sound

The show must go on! Even though this year has been focused on COVID, the Marching Band at Rocky still continued, but in a different way compared to previous years. The band could not showcase a themed marching band show, yet still made the most of a difficult year. The band director, Mr. Carlin, states that, "The impact COVID had on the band was that we weren't allowed to do what we normally do, rehearse inside together, do football games, or competitions." He also states some of the challenges through this season were, "Remote learning, instrument masks, bell covers, distancing while playing, being able to rehearse, and figuring out ways to do music with those that can't be in a rehearsal."

As the marching season still started during the summer, the band had a three day summer camp to teach the fundamentals of playing, marching style, and the tradition of Rocky's fight song. With so many new freshmen, Carlin states that some of the leaders were the senior class. He said, "Seniors could have easily called it quits and not done anything this year, but the majority of them stuck with us, and really helped with the new students, who are not getting the full and correct experience of Rock Island High School."

With all the help that the seniors gave to the band this year, they achieved many goals during their season. "The biggest goal we have achieved is not giving up as a band. Getting together outside of the school day to rehearse and then record together is a huge accomplishment in this pandemic," states Carlin.

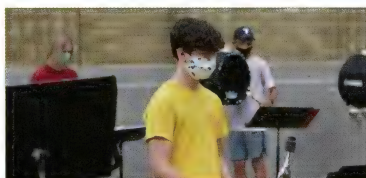
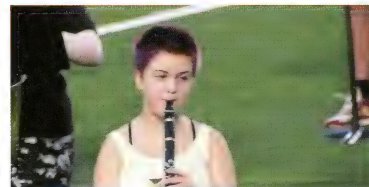
He continues to explain that his "proudest moment was any time I could get in front of the students and actually teach in person, because I'm always proud of the band students at Rock Island High School." The Pride of Rock Island Marching Band, for many years, has not disappointed the school with outstanding performances. Even in the middle of a pandemic, the band still continues to produce marvelous entertainment.



We got the Beat!

"Marching Band was important to have this year so next year, we are prepared. One thing I have learned this year is to be a part of a really great team with the other clarinets during a time where making friends and working with other can be hard."

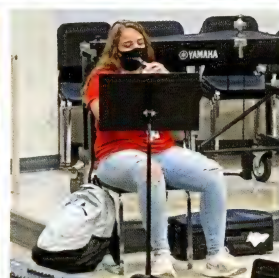
Chloe Shomo, 11



"I feel that Marching Band was important to have this year because it mattered a lot for the seniors to get that last bit of band. Something that I learned from this season was always be there for everyone, even in a hard time."

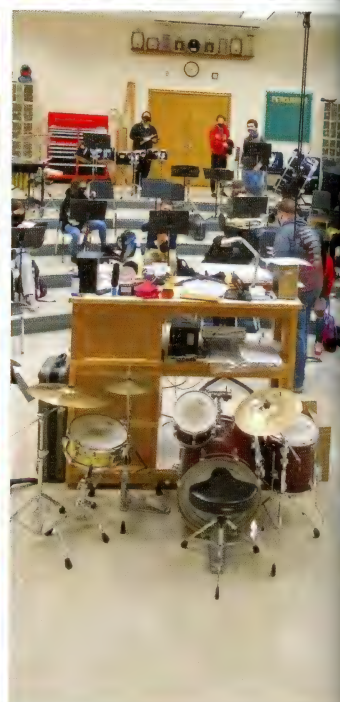
Carter Cupp, 10





PRIDE PLACE

"Being in the Symphonic Band brings me Rocky pRide by giving me the opportunity to share what Rocky has to offer, and shows that hard work and dedication pay off."
Eleanor Blew, 12

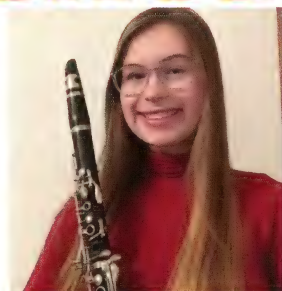


Band is Home

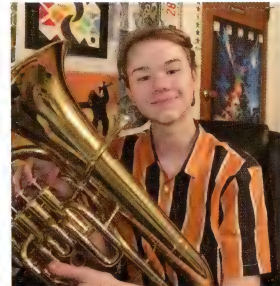


Staying Involved

"I think that it's important to have band this year because in order to get through this pandemic, you have to have something that makes you really happy!"



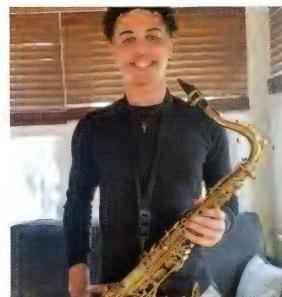
Ella Hansen, 10



"I think it's important to have band so the many newcomers can get a feel of what it would be like when school goes back to normal!"

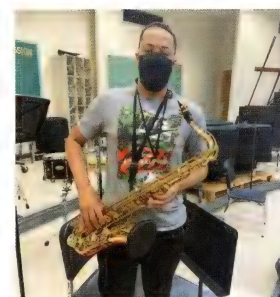
Montgomery Murdock, 11

"I think it's important to have band because it feels like a family, and it feels like we're all close together. When it was taken away this past year, it feels like it created some sort of void, like something is missing."



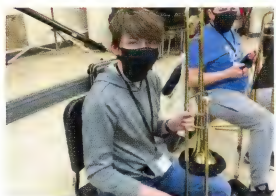
Joshua Briggs, 11

"Band is important because it teaches you the value of music, and gets you to understand how musicians work."



Jude Rowell, 10

Freshmen Firsts



"Having the chance, as a freshman, to be in Symphonic Band is fantastic. I'm most excited for playing with many upperclassmen, which will challenge me to rise to the occasion."
Joseph Brown, 9



"It feels great to be a part of the Rocky Symphonic Band. One thing that I'm looking forward to is being surrounded by many talented musicians. I'm also excited to play challenging music that will make me a better musician."
Luke Gustafson, 9



"Feels great, glad to play with all my brothers, and it's fun playing the game we all love."
Jaylin Randle, 11



"We are very excited to be able to still play. We are ready to play within the new COVID guidelines to keep everyone safe."
Colton Sigel, 12



"It's difficult because we're packing a lot into a short amount of time, but it's something we waited for, and wanted, so it's not that hard. I'm thankful to be playing."
Elijah Reese, 11



"I'm blessed, even though it's only a few games we get to play. I'm still getting the chance to play with the boys I grew up and competed with."
Devin Swift, 12



"It feels good being out there playing and having fun after waiting for so long. Showing that we can compete easily, even with COVID."
Amaron Nimmers, 11



"It's a blessing. Even though it's not what we planned it would be, we still got something. It was like a breath of fresh air after everything we've been through."
Marieon Anderson, 11



WINNING ROCKS

Despite the challenging season, the Rocky boys persevered and won the Conference Championship.

This year's Boys' Basketball Team held an overall team record of 14-2, and 12-1 in the Western Big 6, earning them a first place finish in the Conference. Amaron Nimmers and Eli Reese returned after playing as sophomores to play a major role this year. Marieon Anderson, Baker Beal, and Jaylin Randle were newcomers to Varsity, who also made an impact on the team. Seniors, Cole Rusk and Devin Swift worked hard for the Rocks during their last season in the Fieldhouse. Kai Rios was also a contributor, even though he was injured. Jordan Rice and Colton Sigel were senior returning starters, who helped provide leadership. Due to COVID, the season has been totally different. Coach Sigel stated, "We asked them to sacrifice some personal activities in order to avoid being exposed to the virus, and having to quarantine." Since the season was shortened this year, their only team goal was to win the Conference. One of the challenges the team faced was losing their first Conference game at home by one point. They were down 17 points in the 4th quarter. Coach Sigel says, "The team stayed positive, and we came back to tie the game in the last few seconds." Coach Sigel continues to say, "The character we showed when faced with adversity made it possible to win our remaining 13 games." The team's favorite memories were beating Moline twice, and clinching the Conference when they beat them at home. Also, winning their last game against Galesburg, and being able to celebrate their Conference Championship after the game was a great moment this year. However, Coach Sigel hopes his athletes learn life lessons from being in a team sport. Coach Sigel noted, "We want them to be good teammates, and have humility while competing to win."



"I'm grateful we still get to get out there and compete. It is not how we expected our season to go, but it is better than having no season."
Kai Rios, 11

"It feels amazing to still compete in the WB6. Even though we do not get to have fans, we still have each other! Our team's bond has really strengthened quick this year."
Jordan Rice, 12

A NEW KIND OF SEASON

ROCKY'S TEAM IS EXCITED TO PLAY THIS SEASON.



PRIDE PLACE



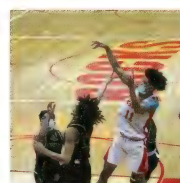
"I gained school pride due to tradition. Not everyone gets to do it and be a part of the team. To go in and form a bond and build a brotherhood with my team was amazing all 4 years of high school. Overall, being able to have the season we never imagined we would of had was a true satisfaction."
Jordan Rice, 12



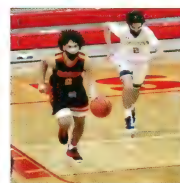
"It's a fun experience, and nice to play with some of the kids I grew up with. It also feels good to win a lot."
Cole Rusk, 12



"It feels great! I love playing with my friends, winning, and getting along with my teammates. It's also great to have such awesome connections with other people close to the team."
Baker Beal, 11



"It feels good to be a part of a winning program. This program feels like a family. I'm excited that I'll be a part of it my whole high school year, and I'm excited to be back next year!"
Amarion Nimmers, 11



"It's good to be a part of the long tradition of a winning culture. It's fun to be around that group of guys and win."
Elijah Reese, 11

Empowered Women Empower the World

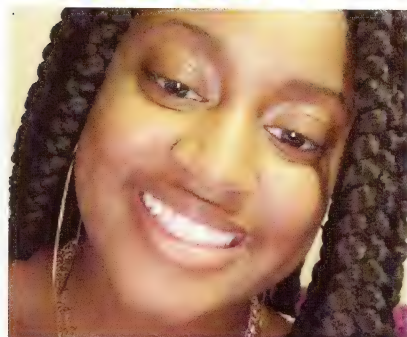
The Riveters Club started after the 2016 election, but was approved in the spring of 2017. Ms. Miers and Mrs. Randolph often talked about current events that impacted women, but the group was inspired by many women from the 2018 graduating class, and was co-founded by Ms. Miers and Mrs. Randolph. The Riveters give girls the opportunity to get into politics, learn about issues important to them, and learn about careers that are not typically done by women. Ms. Miers stated that, "I think the Riveters symbolize the future." Miers continues, stating, "I think that a lot of people think it's just a political group, but it really isn't. Our goal is just to get the students involved, and learn about issues. That does involve politics, but it is not the only focus." The Riveters get involved with service projects, which are a significant part of the group. In the past, they have been a part of a book drive to donate to the elementary schools. Some other service projects the group has helped with are a voter registration drive, and assisting at the Edison and Rocky resource rooms. The Riveters also did a bra and feminine product drive for RIHS, WJHS, EJHS, and TMLC.



While this year wasn't the same as it usually is for the Riveters, the girls were still active with learning about issues, and for some, participating in elections for the first time in their lives! In the fall, the Riveter seniors had their first opportunity to vote in a national election. Some voted in person, and some voted by mail. Either way, they wanted to make sure their voice was heard through voting. In the spring, the remaining Riveter

seniors were able to vote in a local election. One of the main areas of focus for the Riveters is to get them more involved in the community, and to always vote whenever they have the opportunity. With the increase in technology use, the girls were also eager to showcase their causes through their use of stickers on their laptops and water bottles. This year showed that no matter the circumstances, the Riveters are still willing to learn and be a voice in the community around them.

PRIDE PLACE



"Being a Riveter develops my Rocky pride by helping women in our community, and being a voice to all the women in Rock Island, and even in the world!"
- JaRaya Carr

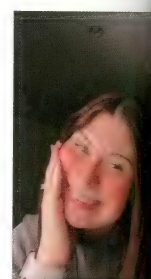


"A woman with a vision empowers an empire."
Eliza Aleman, 11



"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."
- Malala Yousafzai
Itangishatse Bujeni, 12

"Feminism [is the] notion that we should each be free to develop our own talents, and not be held back by manmade barriers."
-Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Kaylea Roessler, 12



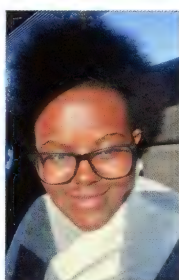
"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."
-Michelle Obama
Emily Bush, 12



THE NEWEST RIVETER

The Riveters welcomed a new addition to the club, Clara Randolph. Club co-advisor, Mrs. Randolph is eager to be raising the next generation of Riveters. Mrs. Randolph said, "I plan to raise my daughter to be a Riveter by instilling in her the belief that she can be and do anything." Randolph said, "One thing that I want my daughter to learn from the Riveters is the importance of community service and giving back to those in need. I hope that she learns to find joy in helping others like I have. My goal for my daughter is to pursue her passions unapologetically, while being kind and conscientious to those she meets along the way." With that being said, no matter what girls are in the Riveters, Baby Clara will always have a strong group of women behind her.

"If you lost someone, but found yourself, you won."
- Unknown
Phoebe Fuller, 11

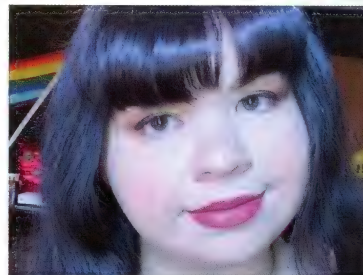


"She overcame everything that was meant to destroy her."
Favour Noya, 11



THE RIVETERS IN ONE WORD

"Empowerment"
Chloe Killian, 12



"Extraordinary"
Charly Heber-Spates, 12



"Inspiring"
Ella Spence, 12



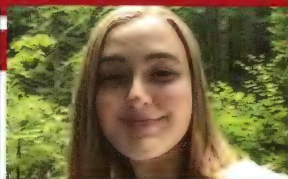
ONLINE OFFERINGS

This year, the Riveters participated in an online conference to help encourage other schools to start their own clubs like the Riveters.

BEING SEEK STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS CREATING COMMUNITY PART 1	
Join organizations or start your own organization, so that everyone who is interested can start and grow a student organization from their organization under the name of the Riveters, and the work these groups do to further each of their missions. Please presentation will include responsibilities from	
NOT IN OUR SCHOOL	
Normal Community School MS, 1025 Stearns Community	
TEAM RAINBOW ROCKETE, PRIDE CLUB	
Bloomington Junior High School, Bloomington MS	
BLACK STUDENT UNION	
Normal Community School High School	
REASONS OF LIGHT	
Bloomington High School	
ROCKY RIVETERS	10:00-10:50 A.M.
Rock Second High School	ZOOM

The inspiring Riveters participated in this year's Illinois State University History-Social Sciences Teacher Symposium, and even though they could not be together in person, they were still together through video conference. Mrs. Randolph and Ms. Miers, and the Riveters, joined the conference, and got to listen to amazing speakers, as well as participate themselves. "I have participated at this conference almost every year since I graduated from ISU (which means I have attended upwards of 10 symposiums and presented at probably 6 or 7). I presented alongside former Rocky Riveter, Sarah McCullough in 2019, and we showcased the group to encourage other schools to found their own women's empowerment program," said Mrs. Randolph. The conference is meant to offer a variety of professional development opportunities for social studies teachers. Every year, the conference provides different themes. This year's theme was "Equity, Identity, and Literacy in the Social Studies Classroom". This year's goal for the Riveters was to show students and teachers what is great about being a Rocky Riveter, and to show that other schools can start a club full of powerful women. "I hope they (Riveters) were able to learn about other clubs that advocate for social justice and feel proud of the Riveters' success (and how other individuals are impressed with our accomplishments)," said Mrs. Randolph. The Riveters want to grow and plant the seed of the Riveters, are you going to join?

We will Work from Home



"Making the yearbook this year has been complicated, to say the least. It's hard to contact some people, but I also like it a bunch, despite the issues, because we can be a little more creative with the material we cover. Overall, it's pretty great."
- Charly Heber-Spates

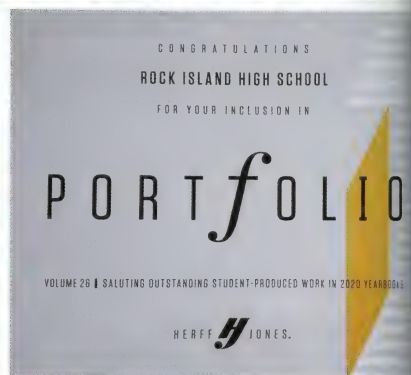


"I feel stressed most of the time since it's my first time being in Journalism. It gets kind of overwhelming, but then it evens out, and I'm fine."
- Marte' McKinney



Chloe Killian
"It has been pretty difficult to make a yearbook this year. It's been tough to get people to respond to our questions, and it's been hard to find things to cover. Overall though, it's been a fun experience, and I'm really excited to see the final outcome!"

This year, the Rocky Journalism staff created a yearbook from home and at school. They conducted interviews through text, email, social media, and in person. They learned an entire new yearbook design program, while attending school remotely. They worked through rescheduled picture days, adjusted athletic and performing arts schedules, and some even created this yearbook without ever stepping foot in the school this year. These dedicated journalists received national recognition for the second year in a row, through their inclusion in the Herff Jones Portfolio.

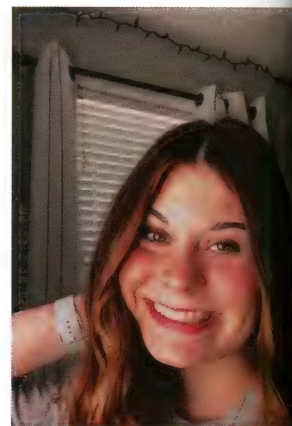


PRIDE PLACE

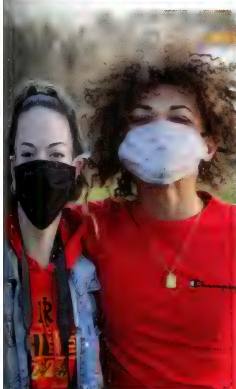
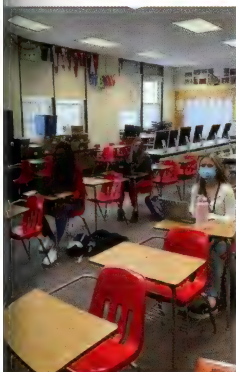
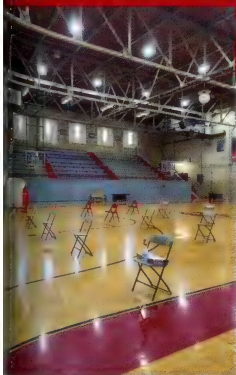


"Being on the yearbook staff develops my Rocky pride by helping cover all the great accomplishments Rocky students have made throughout the current school year."
- Jonathan Knuth

Journalism Round 2



"I'm probably going to miss the feeling that I get when the yearbook is completely done. It's kind of just like that little sigh of relief. Just knowing how much you accomplished for the whole school to see, is a feeling that you can't explain."
- Emily Bush



Lockdown Memories

Keeping the yearbook alive during difficult times!

This year has been very unconventional due to COVID-19 and changes in school schedules. During this pandemic, the RIHS Journalism students have struggled to create this year's yearbook. Being completely virtual for the first semester, it was tricky, but the process could also be done!

Ms. Sarah Miers, the Journalism teacher, loves her job and students. "I really like how empowering it is to see a kid get a story assignment, and then see the progress they make in telling it, whether it is through photos, a yearbook page, or an article. Seeing kids help make decisions and become leaders is my favorite part of the class. I also like how excited students get when we tell their stories," says Miers. She has noticed the struggles of trying to create a yearbook without students in the classroom, along with sports seasons being delayed. "Getting all of the interviews, pictures, and pages done is always a challenge because there are so many moving pieces. This year, it is harder because I couldn't give as much immediate feedback on pages in class like I usually do. Getting students excited about the class and yearbook has been harder, too, since we aren't there together, and some students do not attend class. Making the yearbook truly is a team effort every year, so I am trying to explain just how important everyone doing their part really is for us to finish this book," Ms. Miers states. Miers is not the only one who struggled with the yearbook virtually.

A second year Journalism student, Emily Bush, enjoyed creating the yearbook from home, and loves being a Journalism student. "It's amazing, to say the least. Being in Journalism means that you have to go out and talk to new people, and gather new information. With that said, you have to break out of your comfort zone a bit," said Emily. She believes it is very therapeutic, but also struggles with the idea of working from home. The hardest part is "not being able to raise my hand, and have Ms. Miers' help to work through something," said Emily. Despite the struggles, there are many positive aspects of creating a yearbook virtually.

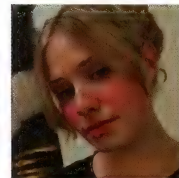
With having all these changes in the way the yearbook runs, Ms. Miers tries to keep the same energy and teamwork alive to everyone at home. "I created the to do lists, which I think helps the students understand their weekly tasks. I hope the conferences help students better understand their pages, too," said Miers. During the creation of this year's yearbook, this process will be a unique one. "Telling our school's story during this crazy time will make this memorable. A disrupted school year like this has never happened in Rocky's history," said Ms. Miers.

Juniors in JOURNALISM

"I'm most excited to see how the yearbook turns out, and see how different it may be since we have such different circumstances this year from previous years."
Campbell Kelley



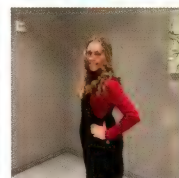
"The best part of working on the book is being able to reach out to students to give them a chance to put something that not everyone knows about them in the book."
Kara Baumunk



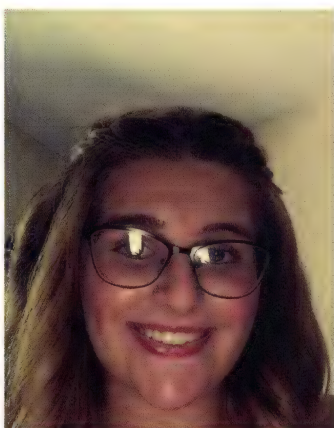
"The best part of being in Journalism is being able to create something many people will look back on fondly, as well as learning more about all that Rocky offers!"
Phoebe Fuller



"The best part of working on the yearbook this year would be being able to get involved with the clubs, sports, & extracurricular activities at Rocky!"
Bella Allison



"Something that I really enjoyed in Journalism was the fact that I, along with my peers in the class, was able to get out into the school, and not only learn cool new things within our school, but also get to talk to and get to know students who don't have a chance to get their own voice out there, and me having the awesome chance of covering their unique aspects that are within the school. That's what I'll miss the most!"
- Avery Donaldson



"I'm going to miss getting to work on the Riveter page with my best friend, Emily, and just having fun in class with Ms. Miers."
- Kaylea Roessler



"I honestly love working on the yearbook. I love being able to branch out, and talk to new people to extend our coverage. Seeing it from start to finish is such an accomplishment."
- Johnnie Teague

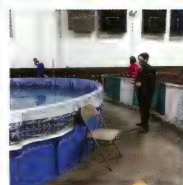


"I am going to miss taking photos for the pages that I have worked on."
- Sarah Stevanovic



EAC's mission is to help clean up and educate our community.
Co-Advisor, Mr. Keith Dunker

PRIDE PLACE



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CLUB

THE SOLUTION IS LESS POLLUTION

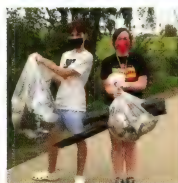
EAC's mission is to help our environment by promoting environmentally friendly practices and to enjoy the nature we have around us," explains one of the group's advisors, Mrs. Grayson.

This year, the EAC has cleaned up the bike path near Ben Williamson Park and made a video to send out to the school with tips to be more environmentally friendly.

EAC participated in the Living Lands and Waters Alternative Spring Break Cleanup and volunteered at the OCCA Expo Center for the Outdoor Show. EAC accomplished so much to help the community, even with the COVID restrictions.

EAC has also had the opportunity to listen to more virtual guest speakers to help them become more environmentally friendly. Their club President, Drew Jarding, states that his favorite part of being in the group is, "Being able to clean up a beautiful environment, while being with friends."

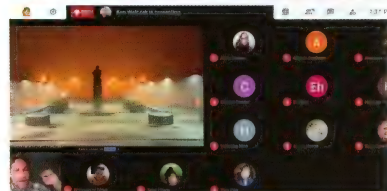
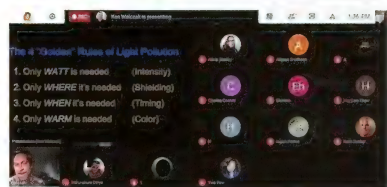
Even though EAC can't be a part of helping recycling inside the school, they help make the outside more beautiful than before by "educating ourselves on current events relating to the environment and different types of pollution," explains Grayson.



RIDING ON A CLEAR PATH

Virtual

GUEST SPEAKERS



Even though the EAC was not able to have meetings as they typically would, they were still able to have virtual meetings, where they could bring in guest speakers. This year, they were able to meet with Ken Walczak to discuss light pollution, Linn Geedey to discuss how to help the environment after graduating, Jimmy Wiebler to discuss the QC's Nahant Marsh and turtles, and Dave Searl to discuss the QC Botanical Center and insects. The club has made the most out of a very unconventional year.





"I feel that being in the spring production gave us an obstacle, and we found a way to overcome it, and that is where pride, in general, takes place."
- Demario Rankin, Senior

PRIDE PLACE

Returning to the Stage

After the cancellation of last year's production, how does it feel to return?

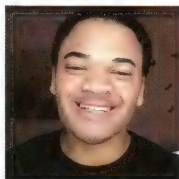
"It feels really amazing to be back. It feels great to be able to be creative again, and get back up on stage with some really talented people."

Raja Mims, 11



"It still feels very weird and out of place, but it is the presence of humor that stuck around in the Drama Club."

Demario Rankin, 12



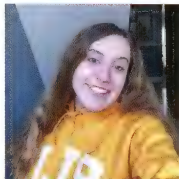
"After the cancellation, it feels exciting to be returning. I'm hopeful for this next production, and for what new adventures it will bring!!"

Charlotte Boyer, 11



"It feels great to be back involved in the theater department's productions! This year has been very unique because of the pandemic, but it's great to do theater, and see everyone involved in it again."

Georgi Feigley, 11



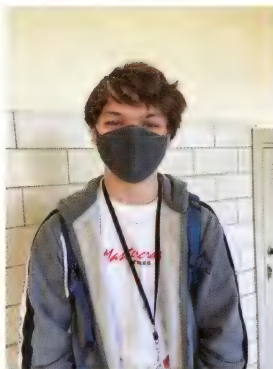
"After the cancellation of last year's show, I'm so excited to be back. I've missed being part of this big family."

Kara Baumunk, 11



BEHIND THE SCENES

What is it like creating this year's spring production?

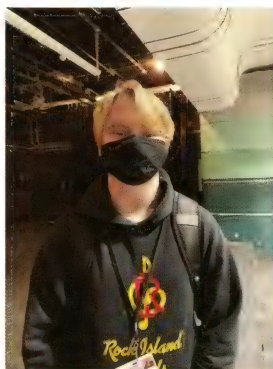


"A lot of fun, and definitely a new experience."
- Joseph Brune



"It was a lot of work, but it was also really fun. I learned a lot about how to write a script, and also learned that writing scripts is something that I really enjoy. It was really fun working with a great group of people to create this show."

- Layla Eggabroad



"It's really good to practice for my future career in the film business."

- Julian Anderson



"It's so fun! I love writing this wacky story. I think the best part is the comedy aspect of it, but the heartfelt moments tie it all together."

- Brennan Hampton

CAST FAVORITES!

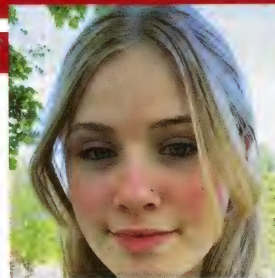
What is your favorite aspect of this year's production?





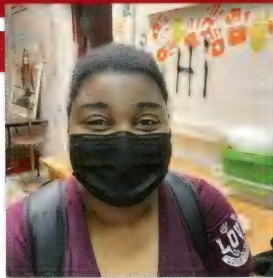
"I loved writing the characters and the comedy aspect. They really shine during shoots."

- Brennan Hampton, Sophomore



"My favorite thing would probably be that we got to make up our own characters."

- Kara Baumunk, Junior



"My favorite aspect of this year's spring production is being able to get back into school with all the drama kids, and putting on a show. It has been amazing to bounce ideas off each other."

- Raja Mims, Junior

A NEW STUDENT PRODUCTION



Rocky students produce their own show.

For this year, with so many different setbacks, the Drama Club has chosen a different approach to their spring production. The club decided to make a recorded play, instead of the usual musical.

The production follows a group of kids, who plan on making a musical of the movie, "Shark Boy and Lava Girl." Joe Brune, one of the leaders of this year's project, says that it has gone pretty smoothly, stating, "I really like that we are doing something we have never done before."

Normally, the company would kick off with an audition, starting mid February, and then the rehearsals would commence within the next two weeks. The production process would normally take around 2 months to get to the final product. Without the opportunity to host a live audience to watch the production, the company decided to film the production instead. Charlotte Boyer, a junior in Rocky's Drama Club, says that her "favorite thing about this year's productions is that it is a student produced show, so everyone was able to have their own input, and bring their ideas to the table." Again, with the struggles of the pandemic affecting the time, Charlotte says, "Some of the challenges would be trying to put on a production, while social distancing and filming with the right camera and video quality."

Despite the challenges, the group put together a new type of production that allowed them to grow and improve their skills.

Inspiring Teachers



Jayla Upton, Grade 11

"My 8th grade English and AVID teacher, Mrs. Peterson inspired me to pursue the internship by showing me what a true passion for teaching is. She always had a positive energy."

Phoenix Panick, Grade 11

"The teacher that inspired me to take this course was Ms. Miley. She teaches U.S. History and Government."



Emma Long, Grade 12

"The teacher that inspired me was Mrs. Anderson at Rocky. She is an amazing teacher, and an amazing person, and I look up to her a lot. She always makes me feel welcome."

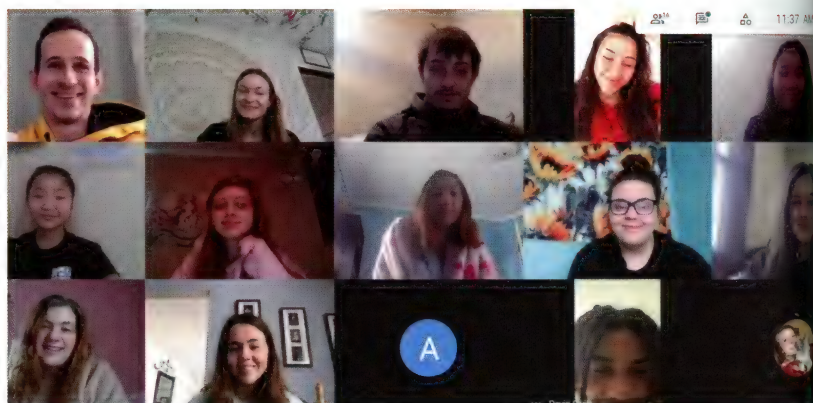


PRIDE PLACE



Valerie Holland, Grade 12

"Being in the Education Internship Program makes me proud to be a Rock because not every school has such an amazing program. It makes me proud that our school wants to prepare us for a future, even if it means some extra work. Mr. Mertel has taught us the value of teaching, and leads by example on how to make an impact on our students."



Education internship

This is the program's first year, and is taught by Mr. Mertel, who also teaches World Studies.

The Education Internship Program is brand new to Rock Island High School. The program gives upperclassman students the opportunity to student teach in a controlled setting.

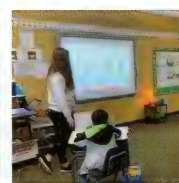
The interns go to their classrooms (or placements) every day, and help the teacher lead lessons, grade papers, lead discussions, etc. Twice a week, the interns all get together and have meetings in small groups, and share their experiences from that week.

Cooperating teachers who assist the interns come from all around the Rock Island-Milan School District. Some interns are placed with a freshman class at Rock Island High School, and some travel to other schools during the school day.

"The cooperating teachers that the interns are working with have gone out of their way to work with their interns, and provide opportunities for them to engage with the students," says Mr. Mertel. "I believe that it gives Rocky students the opportunity to test out teaching, without as much pressure of committing to it."



Valerie Holland, a senior, helps a student from 6 feet away, in her freshman AVID class.



Jayla Upton, a junior, presents a lesson to her 2nd grade class.



Michelle Angless, a junior, helps a student in her kindergarten class.



Ben Samuelson, a senior, assists a student with a math assignment.

Teaching From Home



Emma Widick, Grade 12
 "Teaching from home has impacted how I interact with my students. Since not every student works online or in-person, you have to adjust how you're showing them the material. It's also harder to keep track of which students are actually understanding the material, and who's just turning it in."

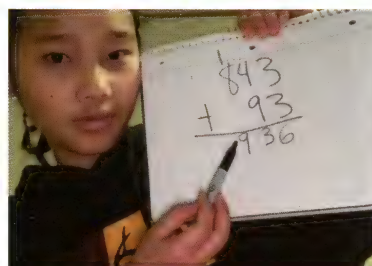
Chloe Killian, Grade 12
 "Teaching from home has been a challenge. It's been difficult to get students to engage, and it's difficult to know if they're retaining the information. Even though this year has had it's challenges, it has been a lot of fun to engage and get to know my students, and help them."



Pride in our Placements

Nywe Nywe Win, Grade 11

"The students and teacher in my placement are so welcoming, and I always look forward to our next meeting!"



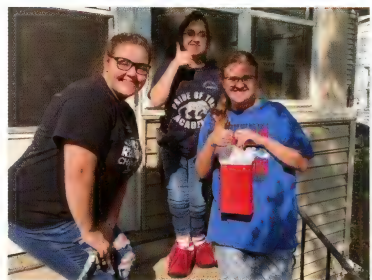
Michelle Anglese, Grade 11

"I love working with my placement class. The students are so kind and creative. I love being a part of their class, and helping them learn."

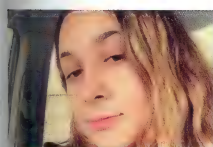


Sarah Stevanovic, Grade 12

"Being in my placement is great to connect with the other students, and to shadow the teachers to see what they have to do for lessons, and the setup for other assignments."



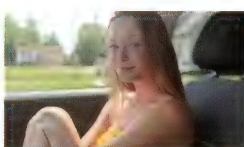
Senior Interns



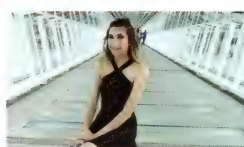
Abigail Thrapp
wants to be a Kindergarten teacher.



Paw Gay
wants to be a Kindergarten teacher.



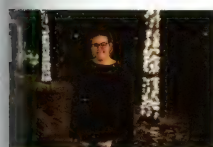
Emma Widick
wants to be a Kindergarten teacher.



Tabitha Ashpaugh wants to major in Early Childhood Education.



Benjamin Samuelson wants to be a high school Math teacher.



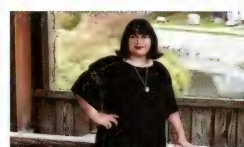
Sarah Stevanovic
wants to be a high school Special Education teacher.



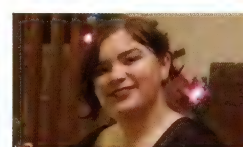
Valerie Holland
wants to be a high school culture and diversity teacher.



Devin Swift
wants to be a high school PE teacher.



Chloe Killian
wants to be a high school History teacher and coach softball.



Emma Long
wants to be a high school Math teacher.

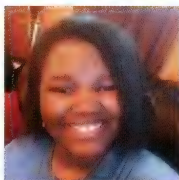
FAVORITE Memories



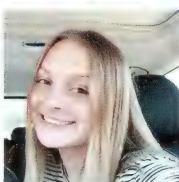
"My favorite memory was the alto Christmas, which was secret Santa."
- Sarah Stevanovic



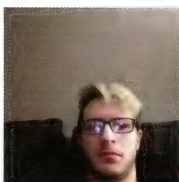
"My favorite memories were the concerts we did last school year with all the choirs."
- Tongil Kalomba



"Trips to Chicago were my favorite memories! We spend the day at museums, see a musical, then make a stop at Portillo's on the way home."
- Rachel Wangler



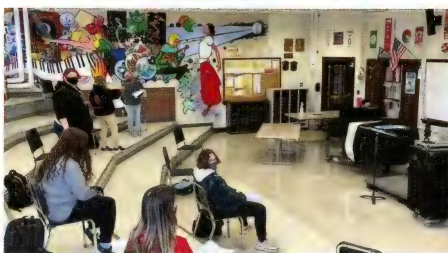
"Testing your knowledge of the songs and singing ability is my favorite thing to do, even if sometimes I feel like I'm learning the songs on stage, due to basically forgetting everything when I get nervous, but every second of it is extremely fun and satisfying."
- Nate Krug



SOCKS at the ROCK



Head Choir Director Scott Voigt loves to rock a patterned pair of socks. Students love to ask Mr. Voigt about his funky socks. It's something that students and teachers both enjoy.



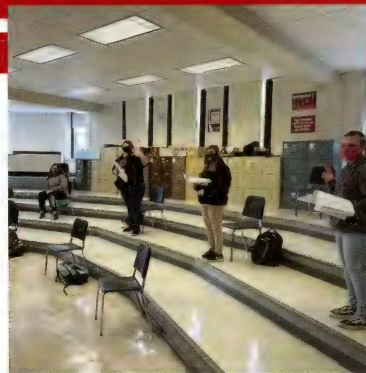
Symphonic & Concert Choirs



Senior Nevaeh Sedlak is a legend in the choir room. Over their four years singing and acquiring sheet music, Nevaeh's favorite song was "Betelehemu", from the 2019 Christmas Season. "I appreciate how we incorporate holiday songs in other languages and from other cultures into our programs. It really gives the audience a reason to come see us, since they know they're going to get more than the usual 'Jingle Bells', Sedlak explains.



Junior Raja Mims has a beautiful voice, as well as a beautiful personality. Her time with the Rock Island High School Choir is not yet finished, but her favorite song has been "Will the Circle Be Unbroken", from the 2018 Fall Choral Season. "I liked it because it was a song that gives the feeling of female empowerment and unity. Also, the notes for the Alto II part were really low, and I love some good low notes," Mims states.

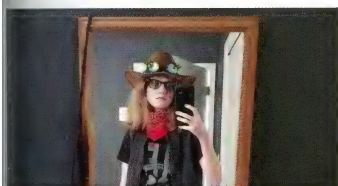


SINGING through Hoops

Many activities and extracurriculars have hit some challenges this year at Rock Island High School. With groups not able to congregate and the complicated process of getting students situated online, the Rocky Choirs have had a hard time singing together. Mr. Voigt has been directing Choir at Rock Island High School for many years, and has yet to see anything like the school year they have now. But despite the difficulties and hoops to jump through, learning music, recording at home videos, and keeping up to date with their studies, the members of Rocky's Choirs are not deterred. Symphonic and Concert Choir both have an incredibly talented array of performers, and though this term has been challenging, each and every one has made progress as a singer, and as a person. During second semester, the groups have been able to do more in person learning, where they can sing together in one classroom.



PRIDE PLACE



"Choir is a type of constant for me. It's been nice to have that rock (pun unintended) throughout this wild school year."
- Nevaeh Sedlak



Assistant Director Bolt

Assistant Choir Director, Mrs. Cheryl Bolt has been a familiar face at Rock Island High School since 1999. In the early stages of her career, Bolt said she almost became an English teacher, but after some serious thought and deliberation, she chose to become a music educator. "I didn't think I wanted to live a life without music," Bolt says. Mrs. Bolt is a very important person to the entire Choir Department. She is a skilled piano player, a classically trained alto (although she has impeccable range, and can sing many other voice parts), and an excellent teacher of musical theory. Besides her role as Assistant Choir Director, Bolt also works several other professional musical occupations. She states she must "be an extremely organized person to be able to handle all of the work." Despite the hard hours and tough time squeezes, Mrs. Bolt always has time for her students. She is extremely kind, helpful, and encouraging. There isn't a piano sequence she can't play, or a piece of music she can't sight read. But besides playing music, her favorite part of her job is "seeing students gain confidence!" Without Mrs. Bolt, the Choir Departments would definitely be much different, much the same as a world without music. "The quietness of our current world makes the Choir even more important because it brings people together for joyous and glorious music!" Bolt states.

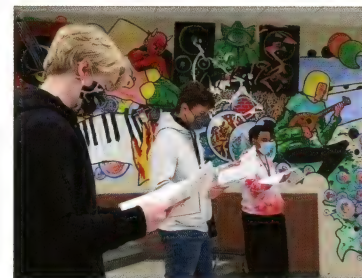


Chamber Singers v.s. COVID-19

How Chamber has changed in the midst of a pandemic

This year has been a wild one for everyone at Rocky, especially since quarantine has been affecting how students attend school. The Chamber Singers, specifically, need to meet in person for not only rehearsals, but performances, as well. The group's focus is on keeping the right tempo, flowing through dynamic changes, and having clean cut offs- all things that meeting in person helps accomplish.

Unfortunately, Chamber has had to change how the group performs together this year. While many activities from the program have been canceled, the director, Scott Voigt, finds a way to keep the group together through music. Taking inspiration from the previous spring, in which all of the Rock Island choirs recorded and sang "Sing Together" in the safety of their own homes, the directors have chosen to continue recording videos, rather than have concerts. The group has recorded several songs already, including, "We Can Dream", "Blue Skies", and "For Now". The group is keeping its stride and singing with Rocky pride, even during a time when finding the rhythm can be extremely hard. But if Rocky students are good at one thing, it's being persistent.



In 2nd semester, students were able to return to the classroom to practice in person.



Mr. Voigt and Mrs. Bolt, the choir directors, adjust to the new practices of directing a choir in the time of COVID 19.

PRIDE PLACE



"I love to represent Rocky all over the community, volunteering, and singing along with my peers, makes me proud to be a Rock."

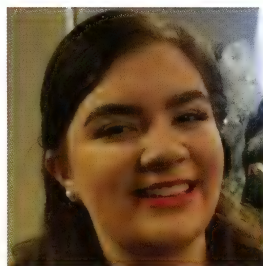
- Itangishatse Bujeni

Voice Swap

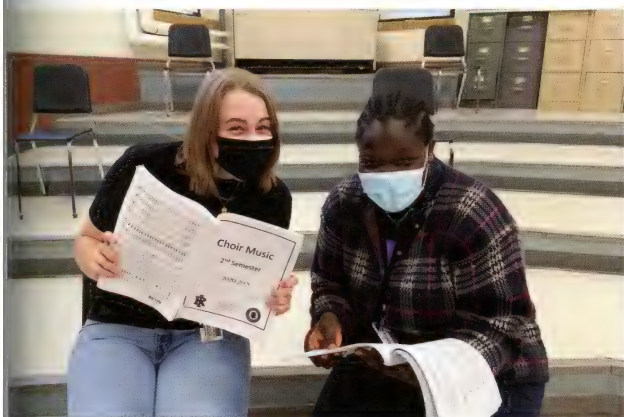
"Possibly, soprano!"
- Lauren Groene, Soprano



"Soprano, most definitely."
- Charlotte Boyer, Alto



"Alto, for sure!"
- Emma Long, Soprano



The Chamber Singers have not had any in-person choral performances, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, although the class does make performance videos, which can be viewed on Youtube.

These students pictured are attending blended learning classes, all led and directed by Head Director, Scott Voigt, and Assistant Director, Cheryl Bolt.

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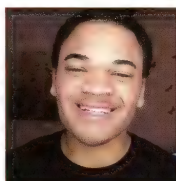
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Charly
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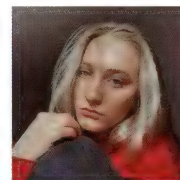
Demario
Rankin

Emma
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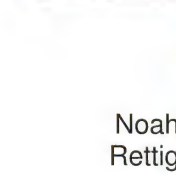


Jace
Elerick

Lainey
Benson



Logan
Braun



Noah
Rettig

ROCKY'S CNAs

Rocky CNA students had a unique first experience in the health care field, as they had their clinicals during a global pandemic.



The Effect of COVID-19

"COVID-19 has made everything we do a challenge. We must wear our personal protective equipment the entire time while in clinical. We cannot do group activities, group labs experiences, and food days. There are also no field trips and clinic visits anymore," explained Mrs. Stribling, the leader of the CNA program.

Students explain why being in CNA is a great opportunity at RIHS.

Reasons to Join CNA

"Students should join this program because it is like a head start into the medical field, which we all know is years of learning. Plus, there is nothing wrong with being certified in CPR and CNA coming out of high school. It is a class where you never have to ask yourself, 'when am I going to use this in real life?'" - Emily Brown, 12

"Anyone that has an interest in the medical field, and someone who wants to take care of people should take this program. Being in the CNA program helped me a lot in my future because I now know a lot of medical terminology." - Jacob Stribling, 11



CNA's New Start

CNA students normally start their first clinical within a month of school. This year was a little different, with them starting in October, due to the pandemic. Everyone in CNA plans to graduate through Blackhawk Community College, a program connected with RIHS.



Jacob Stribling, 11
"My favorite memories are the ones I made in clinical, learning how facilities work, and working with friends."



Thomas Taylor, 12
"My favorite memory is wheel chairing residents around, and being able to talk to the residents, and hear what they had to say."



Lily Paw, 12
"My favorite memory is getting to go to clinical, and working with residents. Overall, spending time and talking with the residents left a huge mark on my heart."



Paw Gay, 12
"What was memorable was I made friends with those I was not close to, and it was a good opportunity to learn from one another, and to help build friendships."



Bell New, 12
"My favorite memory from being in CNA is going to clinical and interacting with residents."

PRIDE PLACE



"It is not a generic class, so it makes me feel more involved, and with the things I learned, I feel like I can actually make a difference."
- Emily Brown

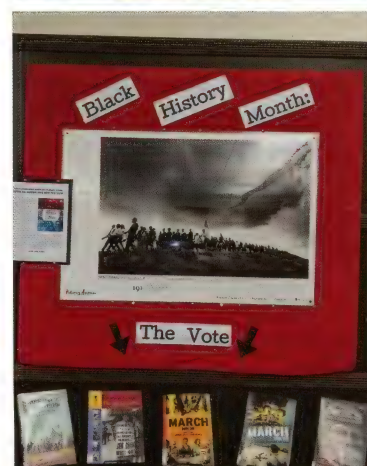


"As far as building school pride, it is hoped that the members of the club develop school pride by participating in activities hosted by the club and the school, develop a sense of belonging and acceptance in the school by presenting activities to and for their peers, receiving support from their teachers, administrators, and peers, to take on a feeling of ownership of the school by becoming an intricate part of the school, which would also embed and instill a sense of belonging and acceptance, thus leading to school pride.

People have a tendency to take pride in the people and organizations that take pride in them."

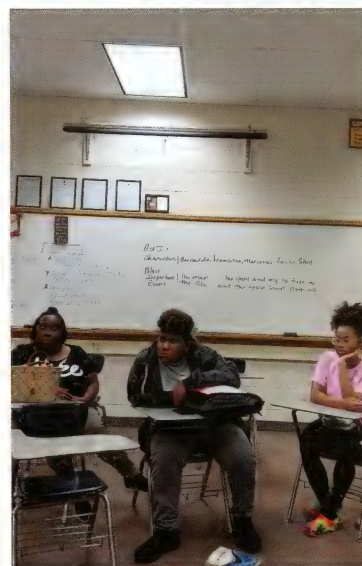
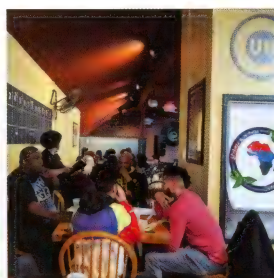
- Dr. Grandberry-Pugh

PRIDE PLACE



Cultural Connections

Rock Island High School's goal for the African American Heritage Club is to get members of the club to learn about African American history and culture. Dr. Grandberry-Pugh says, "I hope for the students to develop an appreciation for their culture and the achievements of African Americans in various professions and careers." She also believes this program will help students gain information and experiences to add onto their sense of pride, and help develop a healthy racial identity. Pugh's goals for this year were to continue learning and stay connected, as well as doing great academically. This year, Pugh says, "42 students have joined our Google classroom. All of the learning opportunities and experiences get posted into our page." The club has not had many chances to get activities going due to COVID19, although each student created a Google slide about themselves. The Coronavirus has taken a toll on the club, as well as many others. For the AAHC, COVID has caused the group to cancel all in person activities. However, the virus isn't stopping them! The club continues to attend Google live meets, participate in discussions, and reconnect.



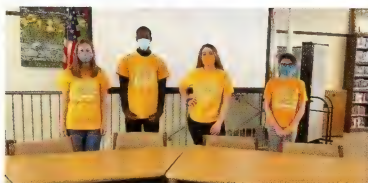


Reading Rocks

"Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere." - Mary Schmich

Meet The Readers

OUR FAVORITE ASPECTS OF THE READING ROCKS



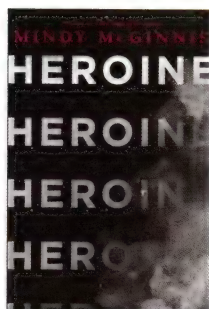
"I feel like we have a wide range of books, especially like the Abraham Lincoln books, just a whole big variety. There is a lot to choose from here. Also, there's a lot of diversity with the people who are a part of the club and whatnot." **Zenniphr Bullock, 10**



"Being able to read good books and influence the library. Also, the bonds and relationships I have made through Reading Rocks with both the members and teachers." **Sage Oviatt, 12**



A Virtual Visit
with *Tiffany Jackson*



The 2020-21 Reading List

1. Heroine

2. Dress Codes for Small Towns

3. We'll Fly Away

4. Moxie

5. Grown

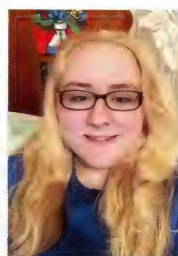
Reading Rocks is a way for students to expand their knowledge of modern literature and connect with like-minded people. Continuing during COVID has been a different experience for everyone involved. Mrs. Curtiss and Mrs. Mendelin have both put a lot of work into keeping the club running. Mrs. Mendelin is "so grateful that during this time, when we have so little opportunity for extracurricular activities and social events, that we can still have a book club." By doing online meetings and using a combination of e-books and Circle Drive pickup, they have been able to continue with the club. They have continued with online sessions every other week in order to hold conversations about the book they are reading at the moment. They have managed to find new members, even if they are completely virtual. This shows that those passionate about reading always find each other, and can't stay away from a good book.

Senior Readers

What is your favorite book you have read for Reading Rocks?



Kathleen Bellinger
"We'll Fly Away. The reason I like this book is because you can read in the perspective of the characters, and can understand what they are going through."



Aubry Berry
"Illuminae because I would not have chosen it on my own, but it became one of my favorite books, due to the constant action."

PRIDE PLACE



"The books have helped us to feel connected to each other and have a little normalcy in a very strange time." **Mrs. Mendelin**



German Club creates school pride by being an overall active club at Rocky. We have multiple activities set up throughout the year, and are one of the most hands on clubs."
- Calvin Banks

PRIDE PLACE



Herr Eli has been speaking German for 25 years. He has five classes: two German I classes, German II, German III, and German IV. Every Wednesday is known as Musik Mittwoch, (Music Wednesday) in German class, where Herr Eli finds music popular in Germany at the time, or German folk songs, and the classes sing them, or watch the music video. Herr Eli has continued to do this, even through COVID-19 and remote learning. Herr Eli has continued to work hard and lead by example for his students. The German classes appreciate everything Herr Eli does for the German program, and for Rocky!

TAKING THE LEAD



This year, German Club decided to not have officers, but these two are known leaders in German Club. Pictured at the top is Calvin Banks, a senior, who was elected German Club President last year. Above is Say Say, also a senior, who was elected Secretary. Both have been active members of German Club their entire high school careers.

German Club

German Club is one of the three foreign language clubs offered at Rock Island High School.

German Club is led by Herr Eli, who has been leading the club for 9 years now. Normally, German Club would meet twice a month, and play board games, watch fun movies in German, and do other German-speaking activities, but due to COVID-19, they have only been able to have two events all semester. Members of German Club participated in a Secret Santa event via postal mail, and meet through Google Meet once a month.

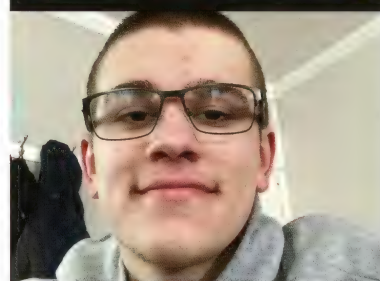
Two big events the German Club puts on are the Welcome Back Picnic and the Farewell Picnic, and they normally partner up with French Club. Everybody brings their favorite dish and shares with everyone.

"I hope that German Club gives students the opportunity to get to know others who take German," says Herr Eli. "Hopefully, they learn some cool things about the German language and culture that we don't necessarily discuss in class."

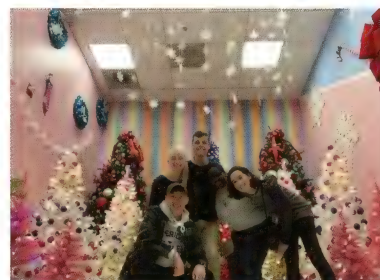
Typically, the German Club celebrates Oktoberfest, also. They watch movies and watch parades in Germany.

German Club is also hoping to start the exchange program again in 2022.

Favorite Memory



"My favorite memory from German Club was our annual picnics. Our picnics were combined with the French Club, and we would hang out and socialize. Mr. Eli always put in so much effort, and that's part of what made it so much fun."
- Logan Wyers, Grade 12



"My favorite memory from German Club was the annual trip to Chicago. We go to the biggest German Christmas market outside of Germany, and get to explore German culture, music, and food! We also get a chance to explore a little bit, too."
- Itangishatse Bujeni, Grade 12



Left: Despite a strange year, the club still designed t-shirts to showcase their pride in their group.



Left: The German Club prepared Easter Baskets for an exchange.

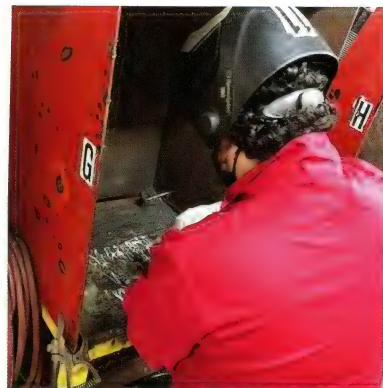


Left: "Keep Calm and Speak German" - a motto for the year.

WELDING

THE NEXT GENERATION

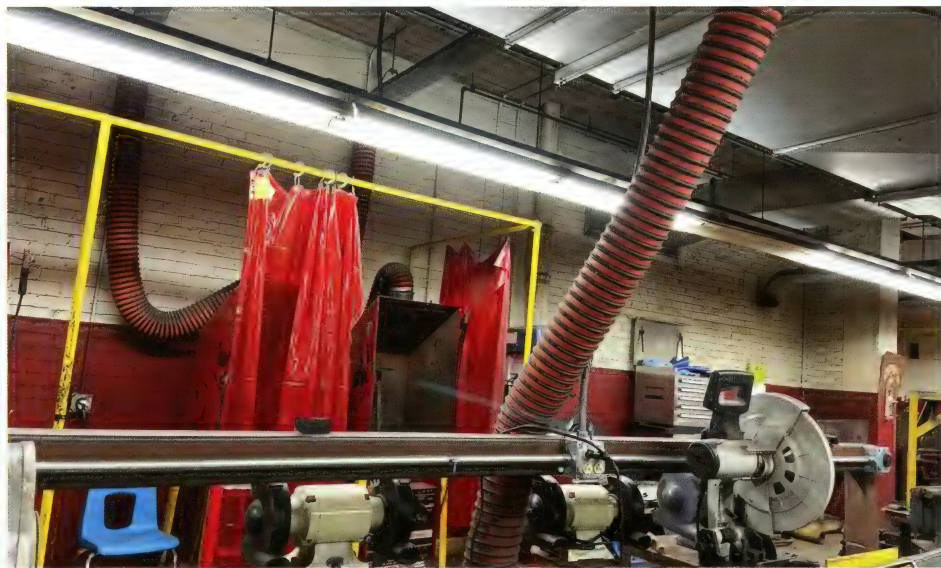
Under the leadership of Wade Weber and Mark Laingen, the students of the welding class learn how to design, build, and repair. These skills will aid them with any future task that comes their way in future jobs. Both instructors bring in guest speakers from trade schools to talk to and recruit the students. The main goal of the class is for the students all to learn the tools, the soft techniques involved in welding, and to become a skilled welder, overall, so those skills can be applied in a field setting. While expectations are high for the welders, they still do face some challenges, such as mastering the types of welds, learning the various tools, and comprehending the importance of the soft skills in being employed with doing well in their career. The teachers, every year, have a lot of pride, knowing that their students will walk away with knowledge and skill sets that will never leave them. With COVID-19, students have faced additional challenges to learning in the classroom, but still have been able to learn the tools and techniques to become excellent welders.



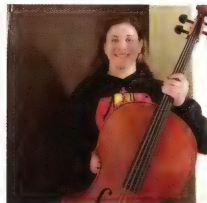


"Welding helps contribute to our school's overall pride by showing that we welders don't give up on the task at hand. No matter the circumstances within the world."
- Carlos Cervantes

PRIDE PLACE



Where It All Started



Bailey Hecker, 10

"I started playing Cello in 6th grade, after the open house with all of the instruments. I chose Cello because of its rich sound. Now, I am in Chamber Orchestra, and I love the class and Mrs. Benson."



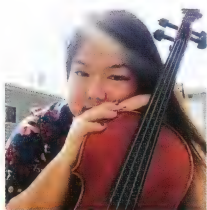
Savannah Harding, 11

"I was in 5th grade when there was an open house at the high school. I really loved the way it sounded. It stood out from everything else."



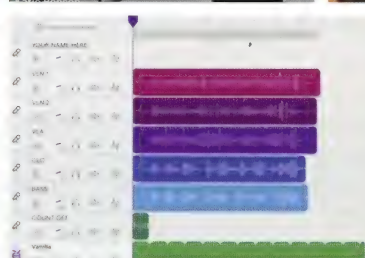
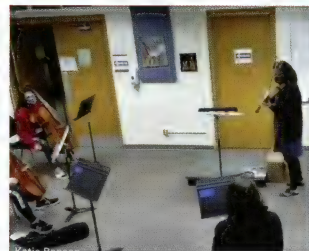
DeMario Rankin, 12

"I was 16 in my Sophomore year, and I heard the Orchestra playing. I went down to the teacher, and asked if I could join, and she said yes."



Lily Paw, 12

"I've always been someone who was interested in music. At age 12, I saw one of my friends play the viola, and it was fascinating to me. I knew I had to get my hands on it."



RIHS Orchestra Director, Katie Benson, is not originally from Rock Island, but has certainly become instrumental for its Orchestra! She attended Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music for her Bachelors degree, then attended the University of Iowa for her Masters of Arts in Cello Performance. Her goal is to be the best educator she can be.

She began teaching at RIHS in the fall of 2015, but previously taught in Massachusetts and North Carolina.

Mrs. Benson is particularly fond of the outdoors. She loves gardening, hiking, biking, and exploring state parks. When the weather doesn't allow such activities, she likes to play board games or work on puzzles with her family, and she has recently taken up quilting.

All About *Benson*



RIHS ORCHESTRA

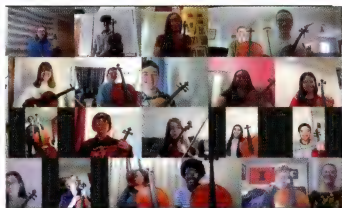
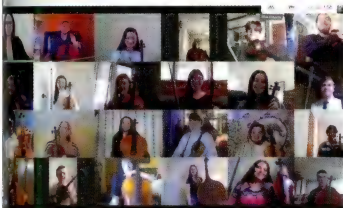
The inability to perform in the classroom would normally throw a wrench in the works, but that did not stop Rock Island High School's Orchestra.

The students, as well as the RIHS Orchestra director, Katie Benson, have been working extra hard to stay motivated. She states, "My biggest goal for Orchestra this year is to keep everyone playing their instruments in some capacity." To keep students improving, Benson "...starts building relationships, so that when students struggle, I can help them overcome their barriers."

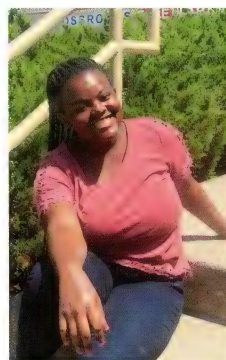
In this new year, new students have been an important asset. "What a great group of freshmen we have this year! As we are able to move back into the physical classroom, they will bring positivity and musical strength to our ensembles," Mrs. Benson says.

When reminiscing to past years, the Orchestra remembers things like the winter concert. Benson misses the, "Fun music and the time of year. I also, however, really love seeing our Orchestra family work together on fund raisers, such as the car washes, Grand Prix, and Soup & Symphony. I also love gigging season in the winter," Benson states. Memories created this year have meant so much more because of the current situation. "My favorite memory, so far this year, has been being able to make music in the classroom for those brief two weeks we were able to," Benson explains.

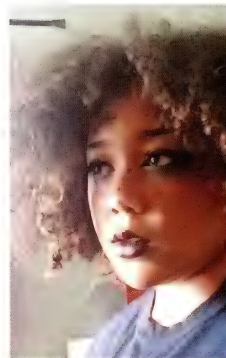
Hopefully, these Rocks will be back in room 23 soon, but in the meantime, they will continue working hard to make music from home!



PRIDE PLACE



"Being in Orchestra has advanced my pride as a Rock Island student in a way where I'm reminded that everyone is becoming someone they were not yesterday."
Favour Noya, 11



"Orchestra is how I am a part of the school's community. It allows me to know people outside of my own grade, and participate in activities that wouldn't be available if I wasn't in Orchestra. Participating in parades and concerts really gives me a sense of pride about being at Rocky."
Riley Jones, 10

Treasured Tunes



"My favorite piece I've played in high school has been the 'Avengers' Medley'. It was a very dynamic piece, so it felt like a story. Plus, it made me feel like a super hero."
Valerie Holland, 12



"My favorite would probably be 'The Greatest Showman Medley' or 'Swan Lake'. I like them because they sound complicated, but are easy to play."
Sage Oviatt, 11



"My favorite piece is 'Saint Paul's Suite'. It's very intense, and has a lot of contrasting dynamics."
Phoebe Fuller, 11



"A favorite song of mine that we played in Orchestra was the Wii Song!"
Favour Noya, 11

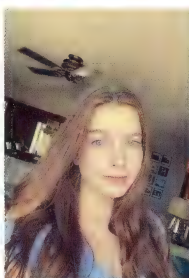
STUDENT COUNCIL

favorite MEMORY



**Jayla Upton,
Grade 11**

"My favorite memory from Student Council is going to event kick offs with all the other students from surrounding schools."



**Maura Chandler,
Grade 12**

"My favorite memory from Student Council is preparing for events and dances, and getting involved with the school."



**Georgi Feigley,
Grade 11**

"My favorite memory from Student Council was helping out at Fright Night 2020, by giving candy to trick-or-treaters, as they drove by. It was super fun to do both, as a Student Council member, and as a Key Club member!"



StuCo's Future

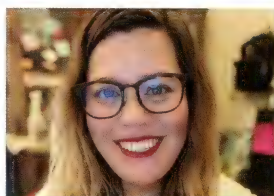
"I hope to accomplish what we could not this year, due to COVID-19, plus more. I want to be able to have Dance Marathon and the Hunger Drive, and raise money for both!"

Ella Munday, 11

StuCo's Fearless Leaders

Rock Island's Student Council is led by Mrs. Young and Mrs. Mertel.

The Student Council organizes most of the major events Rocky holds, like Homecoming, the Hunger Drive, Blood Drives, and Dance Marathon. Mrs. Young and Mrs. Mertel have been leading the group for 3 years. "Student Council generated a lot of neat ideas this year, but due to COVID, we just weren't able to put them into action. We look forward to the next school year, so we can continue to build momentum towards our goals of raising Rocky Pride, supporting our community, through events like the Blood and Hunger Drives, and raising money for the Children's Miracle Network, by hosting the Dance Marathon, and numerous community events," says Mrs. Young. The main goal of the Student Council is to achieve school spirit, school unity, and involvement from everybody. "I think my favorite part of leading the Student Council is seeing the impact that our events have," says Mrs. Mertel.



Mrs. Young



Mrs. Mertel

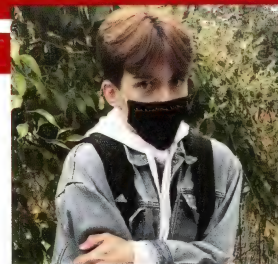


PRIDE PLACE



Natalia Gabriel, Grade 12

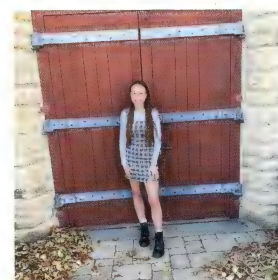
"Rocky Pride runs through each Student Council member day in, day out. We live to make every day a little more crimson and gold. In the end, when I walk these halls for the last time, I will be nothing but proud."



Drew Jarding, Grade 11

"Being in Student Council has made me a better leader by showing me that working with others towards a common goal is the best way to lead in your school and your own community."

Add a sticky note with your name on which activity you would like to be a part of organizing!



Alyssa Groothaert, Grade 12

"Representing our school and helping with events in Student Council has made me a better leader because you have to get views from everyone and compromise on a final result."



Favour Noya, Grade 11

"Student Council has made me a better leader in a lot of ways, and the most incredible way. I thought this was just another club for college resumes, but it is so much more than that. Student Council has become a school family that has allowed me to always adapt quickly to my environment, while making some of the best relationships."



FRESHMEN





JUNIOR VARSITY

PRIDE

PLACE



"Being on the football team helps me represent the school in a good way!"
- Jacob Rohwer

Pre-Season vs. the Pandemic

"It has been quite difficult, as far as trying to prepare with my teammates with the COVID-19 guidelines we have to follow. But, I've been getting to it on my own."
- Ravon Taylor



"Not much is different besides wearing masks, and our season switching to spring. Besides that, everything has been similar, if not the same."
- Elijah Reese



CLASS OF 2021

THE RETURN OF FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

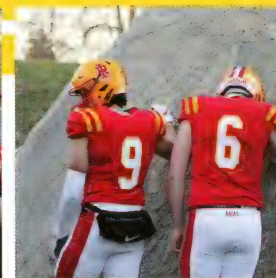
This football season was unlike any Rocky has experienced. Rather than taking the field in the fall, the football season moved to the spring because of COVID19 changes. This change also made it tough for the players who are multi-sport athletes, who had overlapping seasons. However, the coaches were able to schedule creatively to make sure athletes still got to experience their adjusted seasons.

The team also had some newcomers, like Cole Rusk, Travis Thomas, Dontrell Powers, and Darius Tongo, who had a big impact on the team to help with its success. The team's record this year was 4-2.

Although the team's goal was to win every game, Coach Hammer said, "I think the kids made progress, got to play, and enjoyed it, for the most part." Hammer says his favorite memory this season was, "Getting to have a season, that is special enough. The kids deserved it."

Coach Hammer hopes for his athletes, "To understand the importance of hard work, commitment, team work, and selflessness. They should embrace and understand our Family Over Everything motto."





"Our biggest team ritual is to touch the rock. We touch the rock before every game and pray."
- Tommy Smith



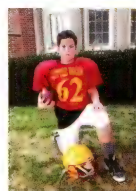
Then & Now

Inspiration to Play



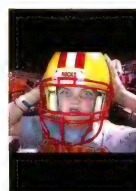
Jaylen Brozovich

"I started playing around 8 years old. The reason I started was because I loved to watch it on TV."



Tommy Smith

"I started playing at 6-7 years old just for fun. Now, it's something I love to do, and want to pursue."



Cole Rusk

"I started playing around 5 or 6. I loved watching my cousins play, and the NFL."



Ravon Taylor

"I started playing football at 6. I started because I happened to be big, but athletic, so the sport fit me."



Devin Swift

"I started in 3rd grade, and I started because it involved running a ball."

CAPTAINS



"Being captain, to me, means dealing with hardships, and I am thankful to have this position as a junior."

Olivia Bowman, 11



"This is my second year being the captain for the girls' program, and it has been an amazing opportunity to have people looking up to me."

Alyssa Groothaert, 12



"Receiving this role has felt great, and humbled me. It has also brought me motivation."

Say Say, 12



"Being captain feels the same, but with a little more pressure. I feel like I have more responsibility to push my team."

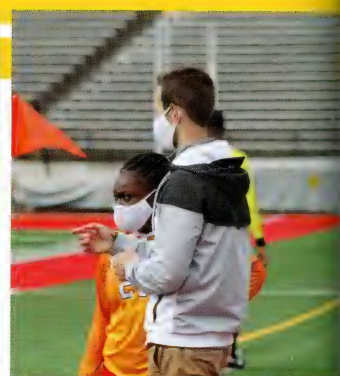
Uda Kimba, 11

PRIDE

PLACE

"Being on the soccer team improves my Rocky pride because I can show people I represent Rock Island High School when I play soccer."

Soe Paw, 11



Picking Up Where We Left Off

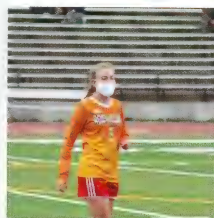
The Rock Island Girls' Soccer Team is picking up where they left off from their great ending in 2019 with a Regional Championship Title. This 2021 season, the Rocks were incredibly excited to even get their season. Due to COVID 19, their last season was called off. Coach Mike Mertel said, "We're all just excited and thankful that we get the opportunity to play." The team has been giving their all since the first day of tryouts.

Realizing that this this year, the team has so much talent, the girls are looking to build on their past success. Mertel also said, "Our four leaders Say Say, Alyssa Groothaert, Olivia Bowman, and Uda Kimba have all done an amazing job setting the tone this year, and leading our team to many victories." This season, the girls had some historic victories, with a win over UT, and a tie against WB6 powerhouse Quincy.

Mertel hopes that all his athletes gain a sense of inclusion by participating in this program. With the pandemic, he knows that many of the girls have felt isolated or alone, due to the lack of social interactions and remote nature of much of the school year. "Our program is a way to feel a part of something, and work towards common goals," Mertel explains.



SENIORS



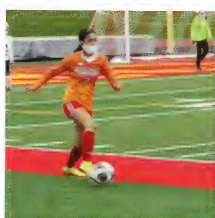
"I can't believe it is already my senior soccer season! I will miss team bonding and leading my team! Most importantly, I will miss the great friends I have made over the last four years."

**Alyssa
Grootaert**



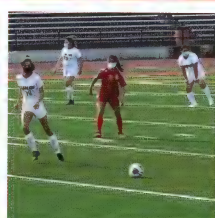
"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another, with no loss of enthusiasm."

Lauren Weeks



"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

**Say
Say**



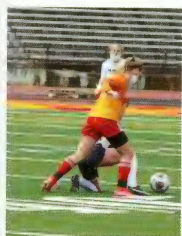
"I really enjoyed playing soccer this year, and I'm happy I got to meet everyone I did. They are all so sweet and helpful."

**Paw
Say**

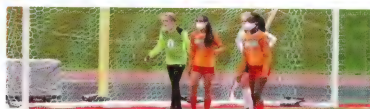
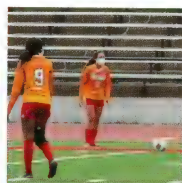


"I'm glad I decided to join the soccer program for my senior year. I've learned so much from my coaches and teammates over the season."

**Spae
Htway**



Family



SENIOR SZN



Benjamin Samuelson



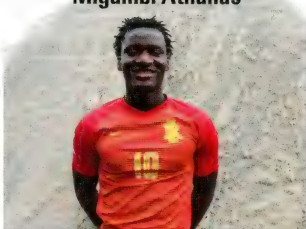
Kyle Gant



Isaiah Kerr



Migambi Athanas



Ta Nay Moo



Murad Ahmed



Jordan Rice

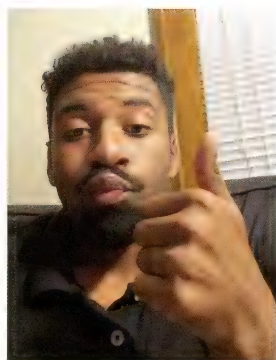


Maung Loe



PRIDE PLACE

"I feel like joining the team was one of the best things I've ever done. Playing for Rocky's boys soccer has taught me some of life's biggest lessons, and not only do I credit the coaching staff, but also my teammates."
Avery Donaldson, Senior



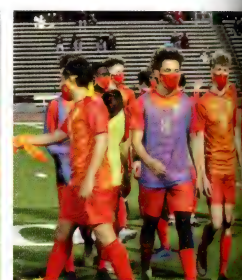
ROCKING THE PITCH

While the Boys' Soccer Team usually takes the field in the fall, this year, they had to share the spring with multiple other sports, whose seasons have been pushed back due to COVID 19. Despite having a changed schedule, this year, they still finished with a Conference record of 4-2-1, and an overall record of 5-4-1. Coach Almanza stated, "The upside to playing soccer in the spring would be starting the season with cooler weather, and ending it with warmer weather. As a fall sport, we are used to training in the warmer months, and ending the season with cooler weather. In addition, when it came to eligibility, it gave athletes the opportunity to see how important academics are, and even though we were in a pandemic, they still needed to be held accountable. Overall, we were thankful to have had a season this spring, but will be happy to go back to being a fall sport!"

Despite this season's changes, the team still had great leadership from the players. Coach Almanza explained that the team leaders this past season were Alejandro Torres, Benjamin Samuelson, Kyle Gant, Migambi Athanas, and Isaiah Kerr. The newcomers on Varsity who impacted the team were Htee Soe, Jake Brandt, Murad Ahmed, and Cohen Crawford.

Coach Almanza explained how COVID19 affected the season, stating, "It impacted strength and conditioning in July, which is a big part of my strategy. Not getting enough time with the ball, so by the season, we needed more time. Mentally, people weren't ready by the season. Whether it was thinking COVID was a big deal or not, as a whole, everyone had different opinions on the matter. I gave everyone talks before the season and during the season, so they would be in the right frame of mind for this year."

Despite the challenges the pandemic presented- the changed schedule, academic issues, or safety issues, the team still had much to be proud of. Coach Almanza said, "The team's strength came from believing in each other, and not wanting to let each other down, when things were difficult. It was a tough year, adjusting to a new season. Believing was achieving a big goal for us, and just trying to finish the season healthy."



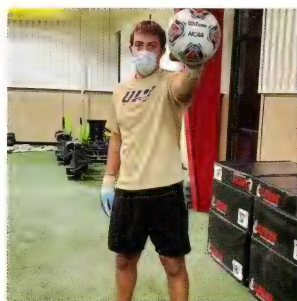


Favorite

Memory

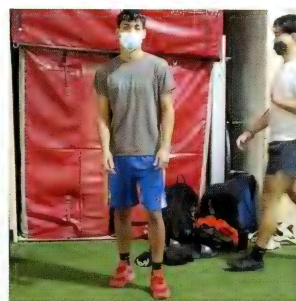
"My favorite team memory is the bus rides because our team gets the chance to bond and prepare for our game. It's nice we have time to connect before the game, so during it, we can play better."
Cohen Crawford, 11

"My favorite team memory is always having a good turnout from our season. I enjoy playing our big rivals the most because it is always exciting."
Edwin Beltran, 11



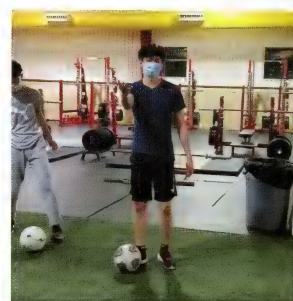
"Practicing with COVID restrictions isn't really that different because, at the end of the day, we're still here to conduct business and repeat what we did last year."

Benjamin Samuelson,
Senior



"It sucks, honestly, but it is just another challenge we have to overcome."

Isaiah Kerr, Senior



"Honestly, it is a bit annoying because, at times, you can't breathe with it on, but as athletes, we usually tend to overcome any obstacles that there is, and this is just another obstacle, and we'll do everything we have to do to still be able to play."

Alejandro Torres, Junior

PRESEASON PREPARATION

BAILEY

RAJET

EMILY

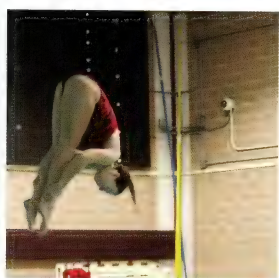
HECKER, 10

RODRIGUEZ, 10

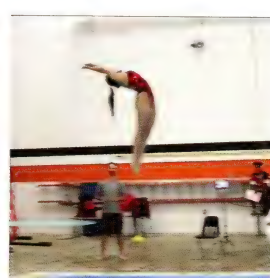
MAESS, 9



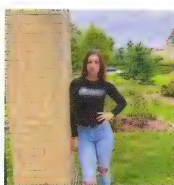
**UNDERclassmen
but NOT
UNDERrated**



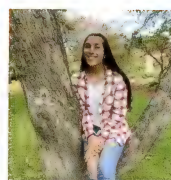
**diving
into
the**



ROCKY PRIDE



"It means friendship! There's nothing like getting through a meet, and having the team cheer you on. Even struggling together in practice can be a positive because you and the team get to bond over that. It's like something else nobody can understand. The solid base of a friendship that I feel being a part of the team is irreplaceable."
- Ella McKinley



"For me, swimming and diving has meant being part of a family. All of the girls work so hard in practice, and that has bonded all of us together. Not only do we go through the hardship together, but we are also able to celebrate when one of us PR's".
- Valerie Holland

The Rocks Made Waves

Though the season was an abnormal one for the Rocks, they were able to go out there and swim fast this year. There were multiple returning members, including Ava Dietz, Bailey Hecker, Laci Hickenbottom, Valerie Holland, Ella McKinley, Rajet Rodriguez, Abbie Roos, Haylie Roos, Olivia Sholl, and Allyson Smithson. The COVID19 Pandemic had a big impact on the team. Coach Busch said, "Our season was reduced by 4 weeks by the IHSA, as compared to last year. We also did not have a state swim meet." Overall, the team was able to bond over the odd season, and it will definitely be one to remember. "We had a season record of 7-3," Coach Busch stated. The team placed third at the Sectional Meet, which was a great accomplishment. The girls swam well, and finished the season healthy. This year, unlike any other, will always be known and used as an example of what true passion and determination can and should look like.

HAYLIE

ROOS, 12

ALLYSON

SMITHSON, 12



ONE
LAST
RACE



"Although the season was abnormal, we were able to swim fast and get the job done. This season, more than ever, we were proud to be Rocks!"
- Allyson Smithson

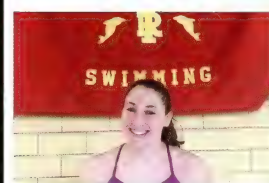
PRIDE
PLACE



What has been your favorite memory on the Swim Team?



"Going to get spaghetti pizza after every meet in Sterling (obviously, we couldn't do that this year, though)."
- Abbie Roos



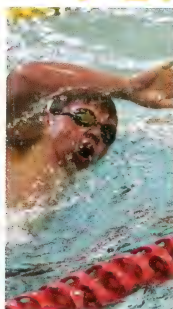
"At Sectionals this year, when anyone would walk back into the gym after their race, and the whole team would be cheering them!"
- Olivia Sholl



"When we went to a Sterling Meet, Coach Dave told me I was going to swim a 28 in my 50fr, so I got on the block, and everyone was cheering and screaming for me. It just felt super good, and I ended up going a 28, and I got out of the pool, and he hugged me, and so did a bunch of the girls."
- Ava Dietz

PRIDE

PLACE



"This season has been one we will never forget. We had lots of close calls, and a shortened season, but I'm glad we were in the pool."

- Ethan Smithson



The 2020-21 Boys' Swimming and Diving Team

DIVING

into the new season

life IN THE FAST LANE



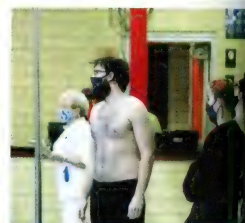
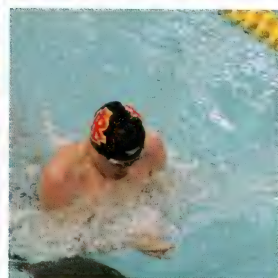
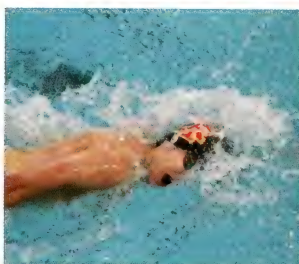
Payton Cassidy



Lucas Rettig



Peh Lay





Staying

afloat

During Challenging Times

Despite an unconventional start to the season and a brief pause, the Boys' Swimming and Diving Team made the most out of their limited time competing this year. The team was led by Payton Cassidy, with newcomers, Max Zahner, and Egan Westmorland playing big supporting roles.

Coach Busch's goal for the team was simple, "To have a season and get through it without any interruptions," he explained. The team did have to quarantine for 10 days, and due to COVID19, they went from two practices a day to one.

Even with those challenges, the team finished 3-1, and worked hard to improve.

Coach Busch explains that he hopes his athletes gain a lot from his program, and learn that "Discipline and flexibility are the keys to success."

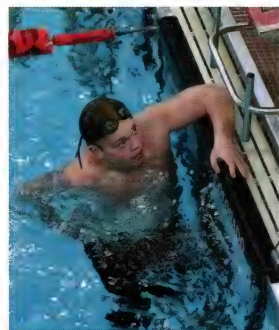
SWIMMING [I'm Loving It]



"It's really good to finally get back in the water after so long. I wish it could've been the same swim experience as last year, but 2020 is full of surprises that present new challenges."
- Ethan Smithson



"I'm glad that we are able to be back in the pool. Though this year won't be the same as the past three years, I am very grateful to be part of this program."
- Payton Cassidy



"It's a great way for swimmers, who don't swim year round, to start getting in shape before the real deal."
- Peh Lay

PRIDE PLACE



Lexi Thompson

"Playing volleyball at Rocky keeps me going. It gives me something to look forward to every night on game night, when we are in the locker room getting hyped for the last few minutes before we go on the court to beat our opponents."



Avery Donaldson, Senior



Cassidy DeMeyer, Senior



VARSITY 2021

	US	THEM
RI vs. Moline	0	2
RI vs. Galesburg	2	0
RI vs. Quincy	2	0
RI vs. Sterling	0	2
RI vs. Alleman	2	0
RI vs. Dixon	2	1
RI vs. Alleman	2	0
RI vs. Normal W.	0	2
RI vs. UTHS	2	0
RI vs. Geneseo	0	2
RI vs. Moline	0	2
RI vs. UTHS	0	2
RI vs. Galesburg	0	2
RI vs. Sterling	0	2

the **SEASON**

CONQUERING THE COURT

The Rock Island Girls' Volleyball Team finished with a record of 8-10 this season, but Coach Morgan Gray was not disappointed. "I was unsure what to expect that first game of our season, with only 3 full days of practice beforehand, but we came out, full of energy, and battled against one of the top teams," Gray explained. The team's season moved from the fall to the spring, due to schedule changes because of COVID19. The girls had few practices before the season, and had to play with masks, as well as sanitize between each game.

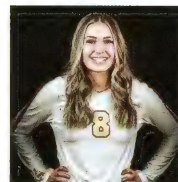
The change from a fall season to a spring season caused multi-sport athletes to have difficulty navigating the different sports schedules, as the

seasons occurred so much closer together than normal.

Emily Allison was one of the team's leaders this season. Even after not being able to play the last 5 games, Allison was still leading by example from the sideline. Freshman, Addie Bomelyn made an impact on the court, as well, as she led the team in kills, digs, and aces.

Coach Gray's favorite memory of the season was the home opener against Moline. Even though the girls didn't leave with a win, Gray was glad that all the girls came out with so much energy. "I hope my volleyball athletes learn the importance of playing together, as a team with purpose," Gray said.

QUEENS OF THE COURT



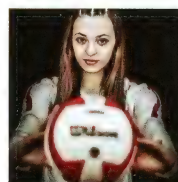
Addison Bomelyn, Freshman

"It's exciting, especially because I am a freshman, and it is my first year playing for the high school."



Mekayla Welsh, Junior

"It was really rough at the start because I couldn't do anything, or play with any of my team members, but I am super excited to get back into it, and be able to play and get close with my teammates again!"



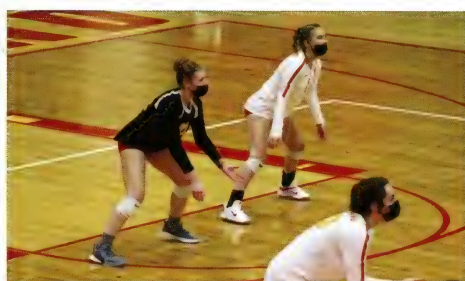
Cassidy DeMeyer, Senior

"I am super grateful to finally have the opportunity to play. It might be a shortened season, but at this point, I'll take what I can get."



Madison Chastain, Junior

"This year has been crazy enough. So getting to have a volleyball season has been a positive outlook. It's always fun to be around the girls you have been playing with for years. No matter if you're playing or cheering, it's always a fun time!"





Rock Island Boys Track 2020

Rocky Track and Field may have looked different this season, but those changes didn't stop the Rocks from working hard and improving their abilities. The Rocks did not get a preseason or an indoor season, and instead, jumped right into outdoor later in the spring. Coach Lillis explained that their goals were to improve each week they were able to practice and compete. The team was led by Samson Shukuru, Donovan Garro, Darrell Woodson, and Dontrell Powers. Coach Lillis stated that, "COVID restrictions make life more challenging, but the athletes are responding beautifully. Everybody's best moments are new PRs set every week."

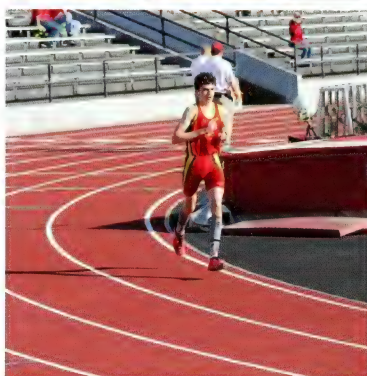
PRIDE PLACE

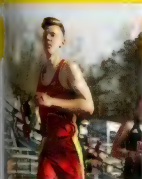


"Track is a sport that I can always go to to get my mind off of things. Track has taught me how to strive for success at a high degree and taught me how to be patient, be independent, and gain strength mentally and physically when I need courage to compete against opponents twice my size."
- Samson Shukuru



2021 BOYS TRACK





"My favorite part about running track is competing. The event that I enjoy the most is the 4x800 and the 1600. One memory that I will always remember is going on long runs with the distance team, while Coach Williams makes jokes."

Jonathan Knuth, 12



"With this being my first and last year running track in high school, it has been pretty laid back. With the help of my teammates, they've made it a lot easier with all the consistent conditioning, and we definitely have fun while doing it. I'm hoping to finish the season as a State qualifier, but I will appreciate the memories and relationships I've built in such a short amount of time."

Jordan Rice, 12



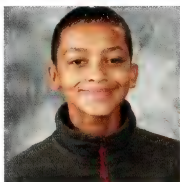
"My favorite part of being in track is creating memories with people who I never thought I would. I've met so many chill people, and now we have a bond."

Ben Samuelson, 12



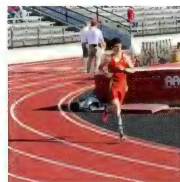
"Track is one of my favorite sports because of long jump. At an early age, I became really good at it."

DesMond Woodson, 10



"My favorite part about track is the meets because we all push each other to do our best. The event I enjoy the most would be high jump because I've always loved doing it, and plan on continuing."

DeMarco Hearn, 10



"My favorite part about track is the competition at practice and at meets. The competition really makes you push yourself to get better and perform at the highest level."

Ian Regur, 9



JUMP, THROW, SPRINT REPEAT

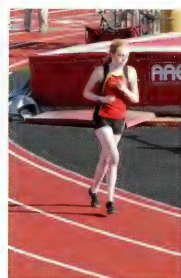
Back & Better

The Rock Island Girls' Track Team this season has been using every practice and work out to their advantage to be the best they can be! With this year being Coach Nelson's first year being able to coach the whole season, the girls and coach are ready to take on the WB6 Conference!

Coach Nelson stated, "What I hope my athletes get out of being a part of my program is understanding that they can do anything they put their minds to, and once they become a part of my program, they become a part of a family - even long after they graduate!"

The best moments of the season, so far, have been all of the PRs happening in such a short amount of time, and the girls having fun in the training and learning

process! Natalia Gabriel and Meeya Guerrero are the team's leaders this year. "These two girls set the bar high to what it takes to be a successful athlete, and are great mentors to the young athletes we have in our program. They work hard on and off the track, and hold themselves and their teammates accountable," Nelson explained. Nelson stated, "COVID19 has impacted our season immensely. Track & Field normally starts in January with indoor season, lasting through March, and then, moving to outdoor season through May. With COVID, our indoor season was eliminated, and we had one week from the start of our season in April until our first track meet. Even with the odds stacked against us with a short ramp up period into our season, the girls track team has handled everything with grit! I'm extremely proud of them!"



PRIDE

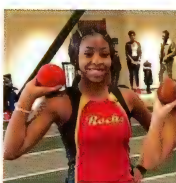
PLACE

"Being a part of the Rock Island Girls' Track program has made me realize that I have more pride for my school than thought I could. It has allowed me to travel, meet new people, and have a family outside of family. I really enjoy being a part of this program!"

Natalia Gabriel, 12



TaNyha Pugh-Nimmers



T'Mariyona McCoy



Janvier Maniragaba



Victoria LaMay

SENIORS 2021



Valerie Holland



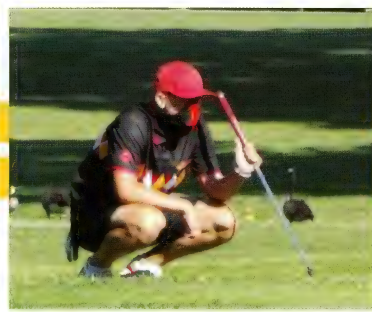
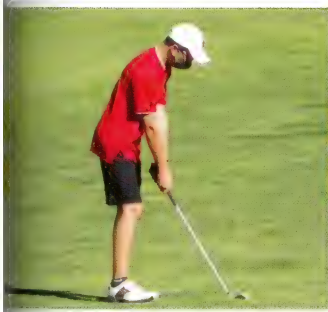
Asha Doukoure



Natalia Gabriel



Meeya Guerrero



FAVORITE MEMORY



"My favorite memory from this year is the bus ride home against Sterling because we were singing to the bus driver's tunes, and we were really talkative."

- Eli Boeye



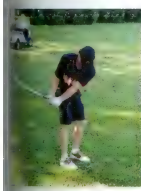
"My favorite memory from this year is shooting a 48 on the front 9 at the Quincy 18 Hole Tournament."

- Aden Rasmussen

BOYS GOLF 2020

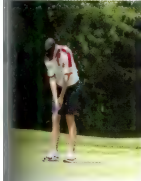


Respect all and fear none—that's exactly what the Rock Island High School Boys' Golf Team did. This year, the team had a difficult time practicing, and a hard time preparing during the summer, as golf courses were either closed or restricted due to COVID19. Even though courses were closed at times, the team still made practice happen. The team featured some new members, who had a big impact, including, freshman Tommy Honeycutt, who was the 3rd Varsity golfer by the end of the year. Also, Mateo Pena, a junior, played his first year of golf, and played for the Varsity part of the year. The team's leaders were Colton Sigel and Eli Boeye, and those two were also returning letter winners. Colton Sigel was the only senior this year, and shot his best two rounds of his career at the Conference Meet, and then the Regional Meet. Colton also played very well and advanced to the Sectional Meet in Pekin. "With thoughts and effort, we can accomplish something as difficult as competing during a pandemic," said Coach Sharp. Even though the team faced many obstacles during this pandemic, they pushed through it and competed with pride.



"I love sports, and I enjoy hanging out with the boys."

- Eli Boeye



"I started playing golf in 8th grade, and started playing basketball when I was 3."

- Colton Sigel



"I practice really hard before my meet, and I make sure that my swings are good, and by doing that, it gives me confidence."

- Brycen McGarry



"Before a meet, I put on Lil' Nas X, and by doing that, it gets me really excited to play a good round of golf."

- Caden Carroll

PRIDE PLACE

"I show Rocky Pride and pride for this group by always trying my best, and by being respectful towards other schools, and teams on and off the course."

- Aaron York

PRIDE PLACE



"It means a lot to be able to even get the chance to put our jerseys on this season, and we take pride in that. We knew this year was going to be tough because of how everything was so sudden, but even with that, we knew that practice times would be limited. We had to practice at home, with not being at school as much. So, we can make our school proud."
- Coach Henry Hall



"The hardest part about this year was probably waiting to see if we were going to have a season. I really enjoyed the workouts we had together this year."
Jamyah Winter



"As a 3 year Varsity athlete, I think it is safe to say, this season has changed a lot from any of the other seasons- from the mask to the no games until 2021. It felt good to be back with the team and practice."
Imari McDuffy



"Knowing my senior year was cut short by the pandemic, it's hard to deal with. It made me appreciate the little things, like just bonding together with the team."
Brooklynn Larson



"This is my first year as a Varsity athlete, and my second year as a high school athlete. I never would've thought something like this would happen, but at least we got to workout as a team."
Erriea Bea

Playing For the Front

The team explains what it means to play for the name on the front of their jerseys, and not the back.



Kaniya Davis

"It means a lot for our team to play for each other, more than ourselves, because it takes the 5 people on the court to win, not just one."



Danee' Robinson

"Our team believes that together we will win. That's been our saying for awhile, and we live by it."



Brionjanique Stewart

"Basketball is a team sport, always will be. If you take a look at some professional teams, you can see that the good ones are always sharing the ball with each other."



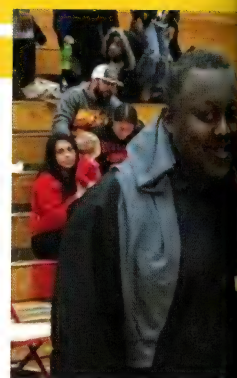
D'Leah Conner

"Basketball is more than just putting the ball in the hoop. It's about bonding as a team, and chemistry, and you have to have more than one person to do that."



Emily Allison

"It means a lot to play for the front of our jersey, because we know how much basketball means to Rock Island, and how many people are counting on us, and we couldn't do anything without a team."



Coach Hall is ready to face any challenge he has to deal with when it comes to the Rock Island Girls' Basketball Team. "If we have to wear masks, we will be the best mask wearing team," he stated.

A Shortened, but Successful Season

This year was definitely a unique one for the Lady Rocks Basketball Team. The Lady Rocks only played conference games due to COVID-19. The team had a shortened season, but that didn't stop them from dominating on the basketball court. Despite the challenges, the team had clear goals. Coach Hall explained, "For the most part, we believe we want to get better every day, play together and for each other, and live by our slogan, which is TW3 (Together We Win). If we do those things every year, we will ALWAYS be in contention for all the goals, as far as the season that we have." Led by captains, Imari McDuffy and Brooklynn Larson, as well as senior, Jamyah Winter, the team finished 8-4, and second in the Big 6. The Lady Rocks' future looks promising, as well. Coach Hall stated, "We had quite a few that really contributed this season. Sophomores Danee' Robinson and Erriea Bea played major minutes for us this season. Sophomore Kayla Rice would have, as well, but was injured during volleyball contact days in the fall. Juniors Bri Stewart started for us all year in the post, and Kaniya Davis gave us major minutes all year at the wing and guard spots. Very pleased how these newcomers came along all year. The future is bright for us, for sure, along with our upcoming Sophomore class."

No matter the changes to the season, the girls still learned a lot from being a part of the program, and a team that feels like family. Coach Hall explained, "We will work hard, we will have fun, and we strive to make our school, peers, community, and families proud. We want them to be very proud to be a part of the Lady Rocks Basketball Tradition!!!! They know while they are in our program, no matter if they are freshmen or seniors, I will love them all and help them in any way I can to help them be the best young ladies that they can be. During basketball and outside of basketball. #TW3."

Captains' Corner



Being a 3 year Varsity athlete for basketball means a lot to me. All these years meant a lot to me, and the memories did, too."
- Jamyah Winter



"Playing for this program meant a lot to me because I know how much of our people in Rock Island count on us to do good, and represent our school in the best way possible."
- Brooklynn Larson



"I loved playing basketball for Rocky, and it is something I'll never forget. I'm gonna miss it a lot, but I made a lot of great memories here at Rocky."
- D'Leyah Conner



Junior, Imari McDuffy

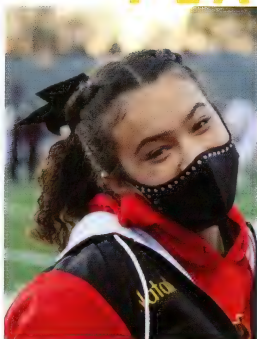
"It means a lot to be able to run the team this year. It takes a lot of responsibility to step up and be a role model for the team. I know that as captain, I have to make sure everyone is locked in before games, and know the game plan. I have to take a role to help everyone on the court. It's definitely a huge job, but I know that my coach trusts me with it, and I trust myself enough that I can help the team."

Senior, Brooklynn Larson

"It means a lot to be able to take the role as a captain with Imari. I know that we have both been on Varsity for 3 years, and we have a lot of experience. We know the ins and out of the program, and it is our job to step up, and help the team in every way we can. We know that there are going to be highs and lows, but it's our job to keep the intensity going, and never let the team get down on themselves or each other."



PRIDE PLACE



"It is very important to keep your head up. You definitely have to expect the unexpected."

- Natalia Gabriel



Despite the uncertainty regarding IHSA rules, the cheerleaders were able to make contact and perform awesome stunts!

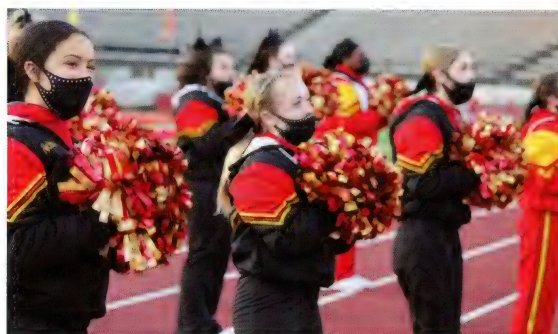


From Bow TO TOE

Despite an unconventional football cheer season, the RIHS 2021 Squad showed up to each game, ready to cheer on the team, and hype up the crowd!

Though this season began with much uncertainty, the cheerleaders kept their spirits high, and made the most of it. Amid the pandemic, there were many aspects to the season that were different. These resilient Rocks used this as an opportunity to change their perspective. Natalia Gabriel, a senior, says that the girls "expected the least, but got the most when they got the news they will be able to stunt, and have a Senior Night." Another big complication was traveling. It wasn't until later in the season that the girls could travel to cheer on the boys. Junior Mackenzie Kreger wanted to remind everyone that it is important to look on the bright side. Coach Kavasias Washington was very impressed with how fast the girls picked up on stunting, and is very proud of their commitment to the team. "We had half the time to learn the dances," she explained. And as always, the Rocks came out on top. Due to the unexpected circumstances, freshmen were allowed on Varsity for the first time. Eva Essman recounts this amazing opportunity by saying, "It has been such a good learning experience, and the support from the upperclassmen has been so great." Overall, the amazing experience and work ethic of the girls made this season worth the challenges.

Favorite Cheers



"We can't say that there is one specific cheer that we like the most, but anything that gets the crowd hyped is very fun for us."

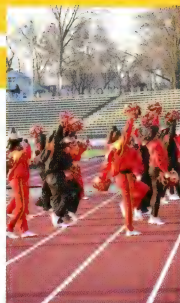
- 2021 Senior Cheer Squad



"My favorite tradition is the 'Fight Song'. I like how we do it at every game."
- Mallory Day



"My favorite tradition is doing push-ups every time we score."
- Mackenzie Walker-Lee

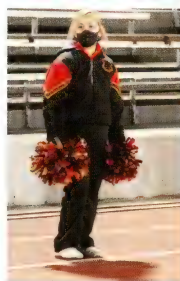
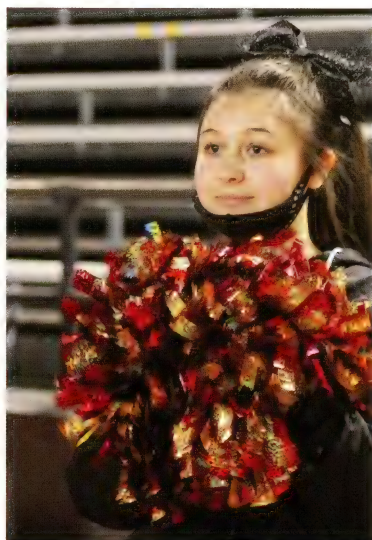


"The walk the seniors do at the last home game."
- Mackenzie Kreger

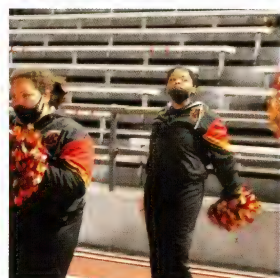
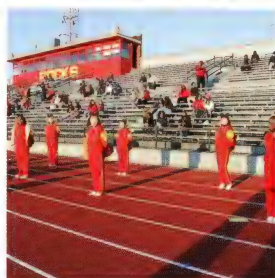
Favorite Traditions



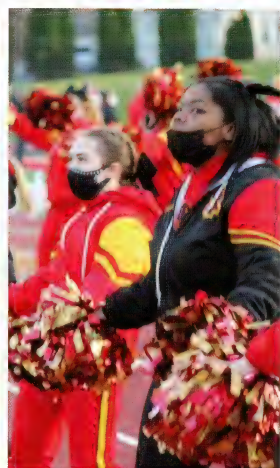
Varsity



JV Red



JV Gold





Varsity Squad



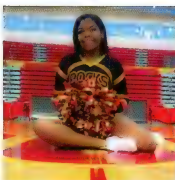
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PRIDE

PLACE

"It sure has been a different season with all the changes and postponements we have dealt with, but I think it has made us all appreciate each other, as individuals and as a squad."

- Betsy Larson (Cheer Coach)



"This year was full of ups and downs, and being a freshman 4 years ago, I would have never imagined having a senior year like this. My squad makes this year one to remember."

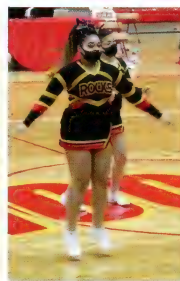
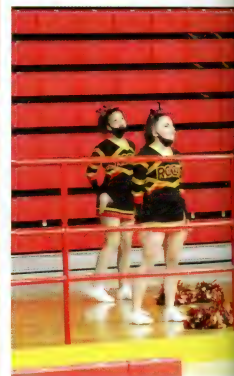
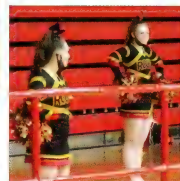
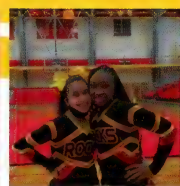
Mackenzie Walker-Lee, 12



Senior
Goodbyes



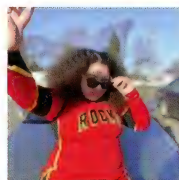
There is No Halftime
For Cheerleaders



Go BIG or Go Home

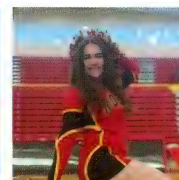
While cheering on the Rocky Boys' Basketball Team, the RIHS Cheerleaders work hard to keep the players' spirits high and positive. Each game, no matter the crowd restrictions or COVID19 rules, the girls went big and cheered hard! This year, the girls could only cheer from the balcony, rather than the floor, next to the court. It was only during the Senior Night Dance that they could return to the court. Despite these changes, the ladies still worked hard each game.

While having limited numbers, the girls were still loud and proud to cheer the way to victory. Varsity Cheerleader senior, Mackenzie Walker-Lee, and Varsity Cheerleader junior, Mallory Day, state that, "Even though the crowd and the students are not there to keep the Rocks' energy up, we have to be extra loud and sharp for them to hear us."



"Being a Boys' Basketball Cheerleader means I have to work twice as hard, since I'm on 2 squads, and getting determination and leadership."

Mallory Day, 11



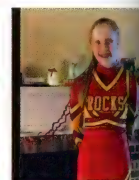
"My favorite part of cheer is getting to know people I didn't think I would be friends with, and getting closer to those I already talked to."

Jade Gasper, 9



"It's fun to hype up the crowd in the game."

Brenna Anderson, 9



"I like supporting the team, and enjoy the sport of cheer."

Josephine Driskill, 9

LOUD AND PROUD

When I'm not in school,
I like to wear my Rocky
merchandise, and I
usually keep in touch
with people in cheer."

- Emily Myers



PRIDE PLACE

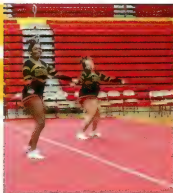


CAN'T HIDE OUR *PRIDE*

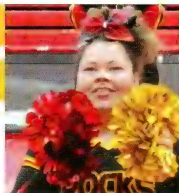
Like most other sports, this was not a normal year for Girls' Basketball Cheer. In the beginning, it was possible that the cheerleaders would not have the chance to cheer this year. Thankfully, some COVID restrictions were lifted and cheerleading was a go! Girls' Basketball Cheer was not the same this year, as what it has been throughout the past years. "We have a very young cheer squad this year (2 juniors, 2 sophomores, and 1 freshman). Everyone has really worked hard to come together and learn the material," says Coach Gallegos. There were some challenges this year due to COVID, and some changes had to be made. Some challenges this year were, "Not having any seniors or any returning Varsity cheerleaders from last year, and not having much of a pre-season to get ready," Coach Gallegos stated. COVID impacted the team in a couple of different ways. "Only having 5 on each squad (as opposed to 12), constant reminders about masks and space, and more water breaks," explains Coach Gallegos. Although this wasn't the most ideal season, the team and coaches tried to remain positive, and make this year the best it could be. Something the cheerleaders did at practice to have fun are jump relays. Coach Gallegos said, "I think our goal this year was to have fun!" Coach Gallegos wants everyone to learn that, "Even when things aren't ideal, give your best at everything you do, and have fun, too!"

2021

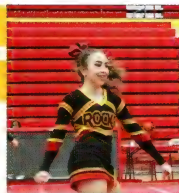




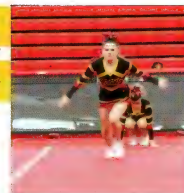
MACKENZIE WALKER LEE. "My favorite part is being able to compete against other teams and winning competitions, or getting feedback to change a routine to make it better."



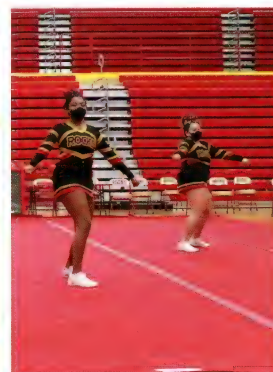
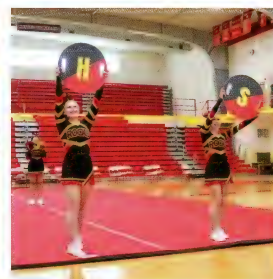
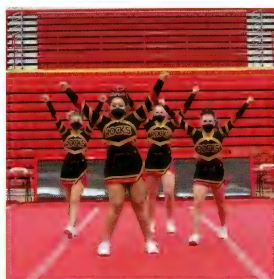
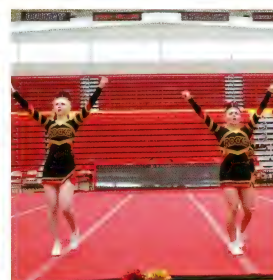
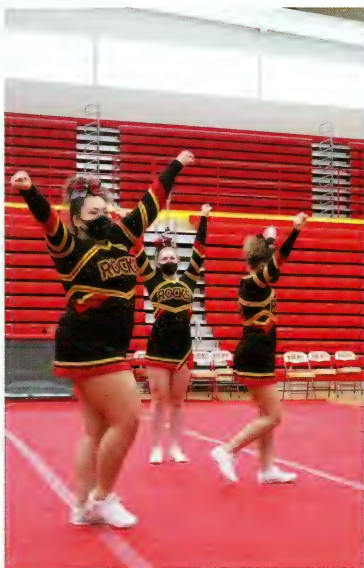
MALLORY DAY. "My favorite part about Competitive Cheer is pushing myself through a complex routine. The different motions we use, as opposed to sideline cheer motions, and the relationship I've built with the girls this year."



EVA ESSMAN. "I would say it's probably the friends that I've made, and seeing how well we competed against other teams, but overall, it was really fun!"



JADE GASPER. "My favorite part of being Competitive Cheer is getting to know people, think I would be close to making new friends. I thought I wouldn't make the beginning of the year."



ROCKING THE COMPETITION

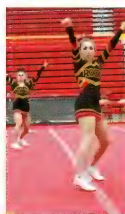
In the Competitive Cheerleading Squad's second year in existence, the team experienced quite an unusual season. Rather than attending competitions, the team had to complete their routine in the Field House, and send a recording of the performance in for scoring, rather than compete in person.

Despite these changes, the girls still had a successful second year. Coach Kavasia Washington stated, "Our goals are to be the best that we can be, and to focus on our team, and never compare us to any other teams."

Upperclassmen, Mackenzie Walker-Lee and Mallory Day led the team this year. Freshman, Jade Gasper made an immediate impact on the team, and is expected to continue to be a major force. "She has some great talent," Coach Washington stated.

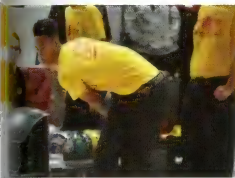
Despite the challenges with COVID19, the team still made some great memories. Coach Washington explained, "My favorite memory is when we won third place in our second competition. It made the girls feel really good."

PRIDE PLACE



"It gives me something to be proud of. I am proud of myself and my team, and therefore, am proud of my school. When we compete, we go all out, as a team, and you just feel accomplished at the end. You are able to be like, 'Wow, I just did that,' and are able to feel proud about your performance."

- Eva Essman



"COVID-19 made bowling kind of hard to get out there and practice."
- Demetrius Gilkey

PRIDE PLACE

ROCKIN' THE LANES

The Boys' Bowling Team, this year, did not get to experience as many competitions as they wish they did. "It was nice that we all got to be together, but it took away from the competition feel," Coach Ethan Gordon stated.

With all of the protocols that they have to follow to have dual meets, competing was not the same. "We did not actually compete on the same pair of lanes with the opposing teams," Gordon said.

The season technically had started in November, but with all of the cases going back up because of the holidays, the season was put on pause. "For much of our off-season, the bowling alleys were shut down due to state COVID protocol, which made it nearly impossible for us to stay in a rhythm, and get better in the summer months," Gordon explained.

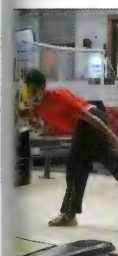
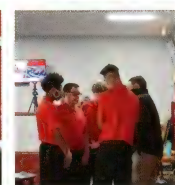
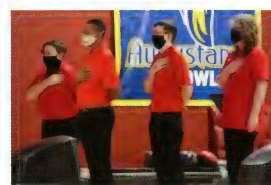
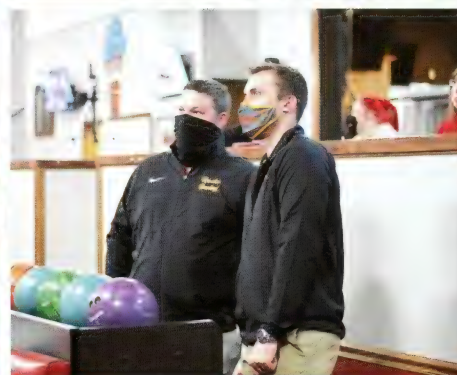
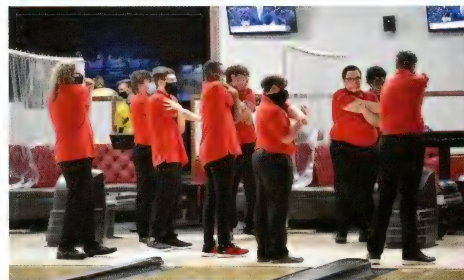
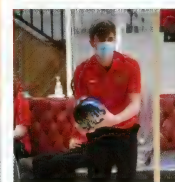
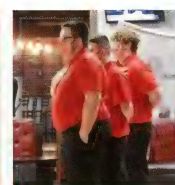
The team ended the season with a record of 1-6. This is the team's second year competing. The highest series was 3092 for the team, plus having a new high team single game of 120.

All in all, the 2020-2021 Boys' Bowling season was successful, and hopefully, the team can bowl normally next year with regular competitions.

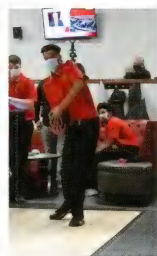
LEAGUE																			
Bow Scores [LEAGUE] V 2.1.16.590																			
11 DEMETRIUS GILKEY										12 F									
1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
30	60	90	120	150	180	206	226	246	276	276	276	276	276	276	276	276	276	276	276
2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
27	46	55	75	104	123	143	163	183	203	203	203	203	203	203	203	203	203	203	203
3	7	7	X	7	7	X	9	7	X	9	7	8	7	X	9	7	8	7	X
20	40	60	89	109	129	149	167	187	207	207	207	207	207	207	207	207	207	207	207



Gage Kelley now holds the school record for the highest single game, with a 276. He finished with a new personal best 600 series of three games. He helped the team bowl a total of 3092 pins.



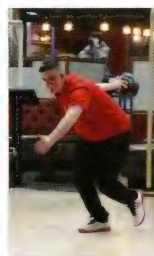
Demetrius Burrage



Demetrius Gilkey



Gage Kelley



Ricky Zeroth



Austin Dahlgren

Senior SPOTLIGHT



PRIDE PLACE



"The Rocky Tennis Team is like another family to me, and the courts, a home. We clock in, have fun, and get work done."
- Peh Lay, Junior

ROCKIN' THE

The RIHS Boys' Tennis Team worked hard during their shortened and adjusted season to make an impact on the court.

While this year's Varsity Boys' Tennis Team may be young, that did not stop them from making a racket on the court.

Led by returning letter winner, Logan Wyers, and newcomers, Ian Empen, Peh Lay, Joe Brune, Cohen Crawford, and Ethan Smithson, the team took on their adjusted season later in the spring.

Coach Gabany stated, "We are very young at the Varsity level, and only have one player with past Varsity experience, but several newcomers have made an impact already at the Varsity level. With our limited Varsity experience, there will be a learning curve for our newcomers, but they are all hard workers, and I expect them to progress and improve, as the season goes along."

The team had to wear masks at all times, except while playing, have daily temperature checks, seating charts for bus rides, and could not participate in their usual schedule of tournaments. However, their team goals of continued improvement remained the same. Coach Gabany explained, "We hope the players develop an appreciation for the game of tennis. Also to learn to strategize, and reflect on their own abilities in order to grow as a tennis player. Tennis is a life-long sport that we hope they continue to play throughout their life."



Girls' Tennis



Lily Paw has been playing on the high school tennis team since her freshman year. "My favorite part about playing tennis was getting to play doubles," she explains. Paw really liked playing with someone else against the other team.

Lily Paw, Senior



Kyi Man has been on the high school tennis team since her freshman year. "It is a great sport, where you not only play with others, but also individually," she states. Man's coach was Mr. Gabany, and her favorite part about playing tennis was reuniting with friends from other schools.

Kyi Man, Junior



Mari Churchill started playing tennis this season. Churchill was on the Varsity team and plans to come back, depending on what COVID does to volleyball next season. Churchill's favorite part of the season was meeting new people and making new friends.

Mari Churchill, Sophomore



Alayna McKinley started playing tennis in 2019, and plans to keep playing in years to come because she loves playing, and tennis is a really enjoyable sport. McKinley's favorite part about this season was the excitement of playing.

Alayna McKinley, Freshman

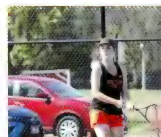
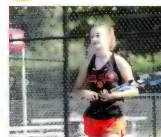
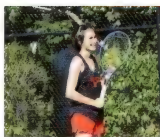
RIHS Tennis

Masked Up & Ready to Compete

This season, the Girls' Tennis Team went 1-7, getting 6th place in Conference. Due to COVID, the players were not able to have team bonding, team dinners, they had limited fans at their matches, and overall, they were unable to socialize like they would in the past. Despite these challenges, the team had 6 returning players. Coach Gabany said, "Our goals are always to improve on a daily basis, whether it be during practice or playing meets. The girls competed day in and day out to improve their overall tennis game." Due to COVID-19, there were many changes to what would be considered a "normal" season, on and off the court. Girls had to check in with Coach Clough before each competition, where they had their temperatures taken, and had to fill out a form about potential symptoms. They also had an adjusted season because of the pandemic. However, they were one of the few teams who got to compete in the fall, when Rocky was in remote learning. The girls learned the game, improved their skills, and even learned to have some distanced on the court celebrations.



Lady Rocks 2020

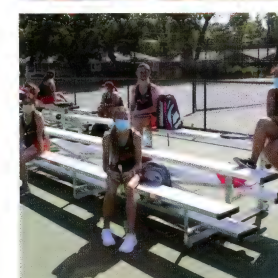
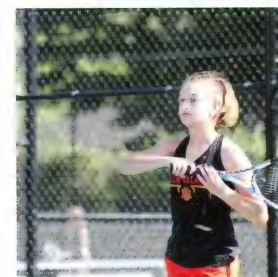
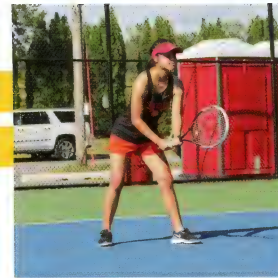




"Although we aren't in the school environment, as long as you have pride, which is the presence of one thing, it can make you feel content."

- Kyi Man

PRIDE PLACE



Play Hard, Play Smart, & Play Together

With not having a season last year due to COVID-19, the team faced many challenges. One challenge that the girls faced was that they started almost a month later than normal. Also, some of them had to manage playing multiple sports. With this season being so different, Coach Allison said he "is so proud of how the girls are working so hard to make up for all the challenges in the beginning." Even though this year was so different and new, they still have the same goals, "to play every game the best as possible," Coach Allison states. Before every game, he says, "If we play defense, pitch it, and hit it, then we have a chance to win the game." The team this year is mostly juniors, so not having a season last year hurt them because they never experienced playing on Varsity. There is only one returning Varsity starter, Taylor Pannell, who leads by example and has been more vocal, as a leader, Coach Allison states. He hopes that these young ladies learn being a better person on and off the field, and "that if they do the little things right in life, then it will make a huge difference," after they graduate from his program.

LADY

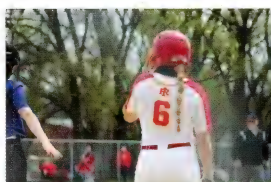
HAVE FUN, PLAY HARD & DO THE LITTLE THINGS RIGHT!

TEAM MOTTO: DO THE LITTLE THINGS RIGHT!



Why is it so important
to do the little things
right?

"By doing the little things, like running hard to first base, and cleaning up the field after a game, it prepares you to pay attention to detail, and practice doing things right."
Isabella Allison, 11



"It's important because it's not just a lesson for softball, but one for life, too. People try so hard to be great, but you can't accomplish anything without focusing on the little things."
Delia Schwartz, 11



R

THE SENIORS OF 2021



**Cassidy
DeMeyer, 12**



**Chloe Killian,
12**



**Kaylea
Roessler, 12**

O

C

K

S



"It's completely different because we would've been playing by now. We don't have many girls show up because of other sports overlapping. Also, wearing a mask at lifting and practice is tough."

Kaylea Roessler, 12



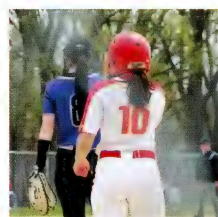
"This year has been different because of COVID. It caused our season to get pushed back and shortened. Also, wearing masks the whole time is not fun."

Taylor Pannell, 11



"It's hard having the season shortened, and having to wear a mask for everything, but I'm just thankful that we get the opportunity to play this year, and can make the most of it."

Mackenzie Brokaw, 11



"It sucks because we don't have a full season, and don't get to play as many games as we should, and since my seasons overlap, I might have to choose one or the other on some days, but I am still grateful to even be playing."

Bailey Proffitt, 11

PRIDE PLACE



"Being on the softball team teaches you how to be a part of a team. At school, we're all a part of the team, and I cheer on my school, just like I would cheer on my teammates."

- Cassidy DeMeyer, 12



"It's important to do the little things right because it keeps everyone on page, and it makes the team more organized."

**Taylor
Pannell, 11**



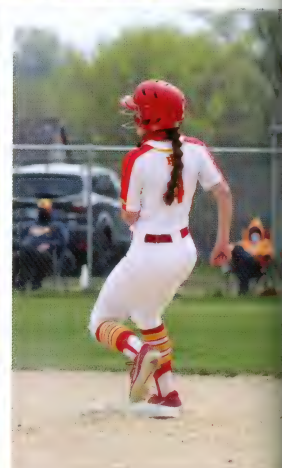
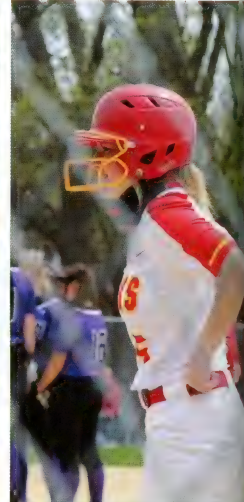
"The little things make up the big things. If you're not doing the little things right, then it will be more difficult to do the big stuff right."

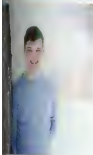
**Campbell
Kelley, 11**



"To help you succeed in life and on the field."

Sydney Quinones, 11





"This class brings me pride because I am representing Rocky in front of local Rock Island companies."
- Calvin Banks

PRIDE PLACE



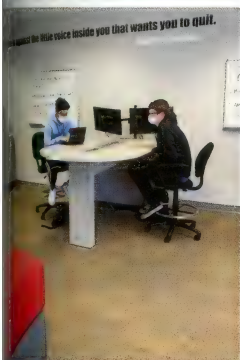
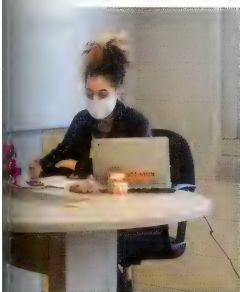
They're all Business

Building Great Leaders, One Student at a Time

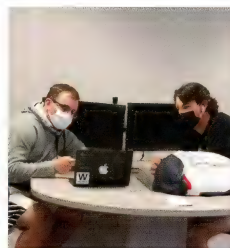
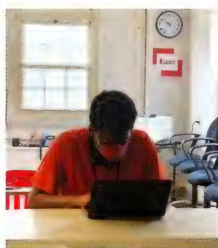
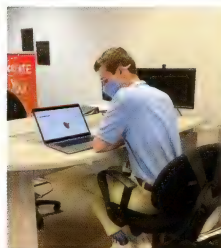
All teachers want their students to get down to business in class, but that is literally what Mrs. Matson teaches in Entrepreneurship. Mrs. Matson has led the class since the program started at Rocky. She explains that the class is for "students to learn how to launch their own business, how to collaborate with other students, as well as business professionals. They learn how to pitch to investors (like on Shark Tank)."

The ultimate goal of the class is to build a business, and win the \$5,000.00 start up prize money. The students participate in two pitches here at school and a pitch with the Rock Island Rotary. Each team of students has roles of the customer champion, the rainmaker, the innovative architect, and the visionary (leader).

COVID19 has impacted this class in many ways. Students have not been able to attend luncheons, and the pandemic has limited their in person customer interviews. However, Mrs. Matson explains how her favorite memory, this year, was the MVP pitch, watching the students be able to face judges (remotely), and answer their questions, and overcoming all of the obstacles put forth by the pandemic.



Working
HARD

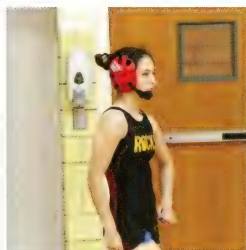


PRIDE PLACE



"Being part of the Wrestling Team at Rocky gives me pride because even though the season is not happening the usual way, I still lift to get ready for the future."

- Manny Limon

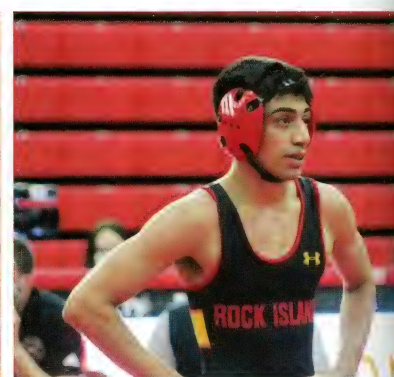
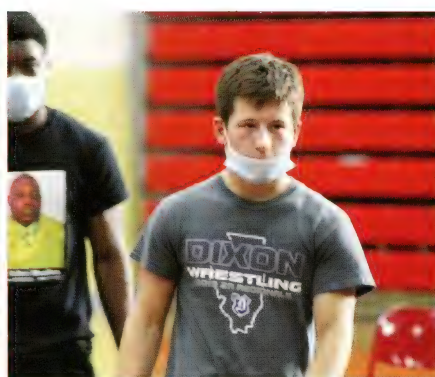
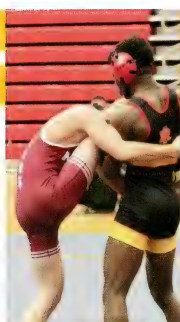


"To overcome this season's changes, I worked hard during the winter to stay in shape, while there still was a possibility of not having a season."

- Rebecca Ferguson

"At first, I was bummed out that our season was short, but then, I was just grateful to even have a season. I knew that all I could do was work hard to enjoy every day of the short season."

- Aoci Bernard





It's not often that the Rocks' Wrestling Team takes the mat in the spring, but due to COVID, the season moved to a spring/ summer sport. Despite the change, Coach Stockwell explains the team's goals, stating, "Since there is no post season team events this year, we had to alter our goals. 1. As a team, we are hoping to have all wrestlers become eligible before the end of the season. 2. We also hope to have a full line up before the end of the year. 3. We also set a goal to try and score over 60 points in a single dual at least once this year." This year, the team faced challenges of fewer numbers out for the team with remote learning, a changed schedule, limited spectators, no post season, and only wrestling in dual meets.

The team was led by senior captains, Manny Limon and Kyle Gant, as well as senior, Aoci Bernard. Stockwell states, "They are leaders because they arrive to practices early, work hard without complaining, take time to help underclassmen, and take care of things coaches ask of them. Aoci is a leader because he is always talking to the team- trying to encourage them to do better, work harder, and care about the team score." The Varsity Team's success was also due to Danielle McGhee and Tyler Barbee.

Even with the challenges of this adjusted season, the Rocks still gained a lot from the season. Coach Stockwell hopes his program instills a lot in his athletes, explaining, "I want my wrestlers to learn how to work hard, set goals, manage their time, sacrifice, and be unselfish. I think these are all characteristics that successful people share, for the most part. There is time to do well in school, sports, work, life, and still have free time. The sooner people learn how to manage all of their responsibilities and perform at a high level, the easier they will be able to deal with life's demands and adversities. Making it to state is always what we are hoping for as a team and as individuals, but it is actually a byproduct of what we are really trying to instill to our wrestlers. We want them to carry the skills and lessons they learn in wrestling into the rest of their lives. The ones that have been able to finish all 4 years of wrestling at Rocky have gone on to college and or professional careers. We are very proud of that, as a program and as coaches."



SENIORS 2021



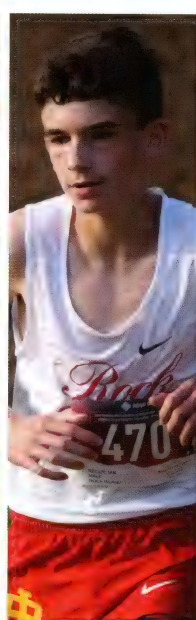
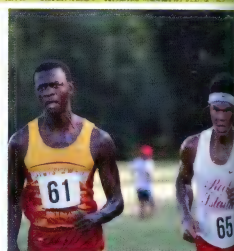
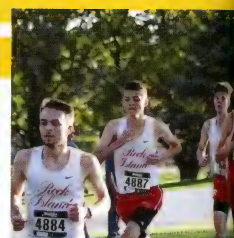
ROCKS



ON THE RUN

Cross Country is a sport that pushes runners both mentally and physically. Crossing the finish line brings excitement to most of the boys, rather than their placement in the race. The team was led by captains, Donovan Garro and Joseph Brune, who motivated the team on a daily basis. These boys have worked hard for their season over the summer in "small groups, in both the mornings and evenings, due to IHSA rules," Coach Williams states. The season was conducted in all dual meets to help with social distancing. One of the challenges, the Coach says was, "We didn't have much Varsity experience heading into this season, and we had to learn how to race in dual meets." Even though the team had to make quick adjustments, they all worked together to race as a competing racing machine. The newcomers, junior Drew Jarding, freshmen Jayden Putnam, Asa Mahn, and Ian Regur, helped the team, as Williams states, by "working their way into the Varsity lineup during the course of the season. Jarding and Putnam made immediate contributions, and have been part of the top seven all season."

Although the team did not win any of their dual meets, they were at a three point loss at Alleman, and an eight point loss at United Township. Regardless of the losses, the team learned many lessons on how to compete. Coach Williams states that "Rocky Pride is real, and it is an honor and privilege to represent RIHS in competition and life." With all the learning opportunities, one of the proudest moments of the season was "senior Donovan Garro finishing in the top ten at the Western Big 6 Conference Meet for the first time ever, and earning a medal. We've been working toward that moment for more than a year. I was proud to see him earn that medal and be recognized as First Team All-Conference for it," added Coach Williams. There were many boys throughout the Varsity and JV teams who worked very hard to bring their times down to score for the team. With a fantastic season, full of life long memories and many individual improvements, the team had a hard working group of runners, who gave it their all in every race. The future of the Cross Country Team looks bright with the team's powerful Rocky Pride.



Seniors' Final Lap



"I've learned stretches for certain parts of the body and how to properly run with minimal discomfort. I will miss the socializing, the team dinners, where we all get together at a house, eat, and hangout, because that's where most of my high school memories came from."

Mason Love



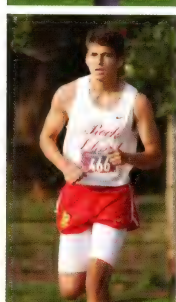
"One thing that I have learned from Cross Country is to always push yourself in anything you do. I will miss the memories, and all the fun I have had with the team."

Jonathan Knuth



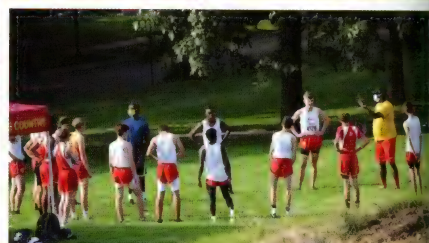
"Something that I have learned from Cross Country is I like running. One thing that I am going to miss is my teammates."

Jackson Hansen

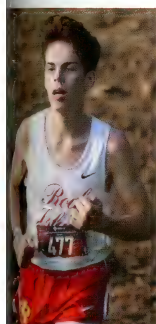


"I have learned to have determination. The one thing that I will miss are my teammates, team dinners, coaches' remarks, and the seniors."

Blake Zahner



ROCKING 2020 MEMORIES



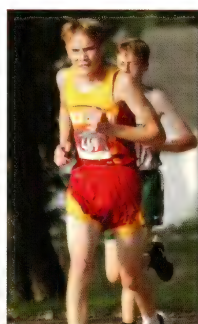
"My favorite part of the Cross Country season was hanging out with my teammates, especially at team dinners."

**Asa Mahn,
9**



"My favorite memory from the season is just being around the team, in general, as well as getting to know the team, because being a freshman, I did not know if the team would notice me. But throughout the year, I liked to get to know everybody on the team. Even though the seniors will be leaving next year, it will not feel the same, and I do not know what I will do without them."

Jayden Putnam, 9



"My favorite memory from this year's Cross Country season was when we went to the Indiana Dunes."

**Roland Ullrick,
11**

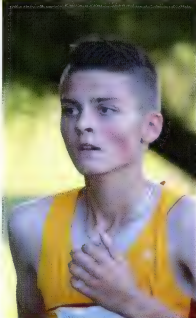
"My favorite memory is practicing over the summer at the Blackhawk State Park trails."

**Drew Jarding,
11**



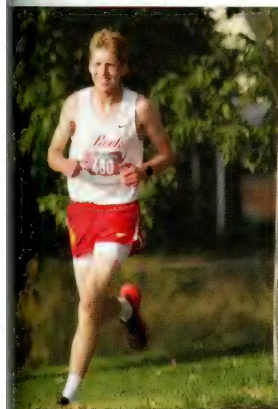
"My favorite memory from this season were the bus rides after the meet, when we all get to hang out and have fun."

**Braeden Baker,
10**



Pride in Cross Country is displayed as the team runs throughout the community. Their pride is seen where ever the team goes for a meet, and as they run with the name of ROCK ISLAND on their jerseys with Pride.

PRIDE PLACE



"One way I try to motivate the team is leading by example. I hope that if I do the best I can, it will inspire others to do so, as well. Some advice for the future team is to always give everything you've got. Do not finish something wishing that you tried harder."

Donovan Garro, 12

2020 CAPTAINS



"I motivate the team by telling them what I would want to hear in certain situations, and remember what helped me when I was an underclassman. I wish for the future team that they would just stay relaxed when it gets tough and keep going."

Joseph Brune, 11

Running Past

COVID

OUTSTANDING UNDERCLASSMEN

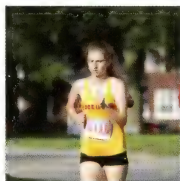
"I am really happy and proud of myself to be an underclassman running on the Varsity Team because I know that in the next 4 years, I can only improve, and I have a good baseline."
Mary Stockdale, Grade 9



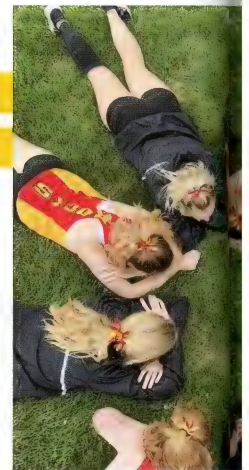
"It makes me feel great that I am the #1 runner on the team. It makes me want to push myself harder."
Mackenzie Meirhaeghe, Grade 10



"Being an underclassman on Varsity is fun, and makes me push myself harder. It is also really challenging because I have to work harder to keep up."
Madelyn Maidak, Grade 10



"Even though our team was really small this year, being an underclassman on Varsity is something I am really grateful for."
Norah Wright, Grade 9





Despite all the challenges this year, the Girls' Cross Country Team still managed to have a full, successful season. Although COVID-19 made it hard to stay positive, the team found a way to make the most of the time they had together, and have a blast! Coach Cassie Williams led the small, but mighty, team all the way to Regionals. She encouraged the girls to "not let your goals become your limits," a saying that stuck with the girls all season.

With only three upperclassmen on the team, this year's group was a young one. Williams states that freshmen, Mary Stockdale and Norah Wright both came in second and third throughout the season. They helped the team grow and move in the right direction. The team also had many leaders, Lainey Benson as a second-year captain, and Kenzie Meirhaeghe, as the number one sophomore and girl on the team who motivated the team to work in a competitive way.

For Benson, "The hardest part about being a captain is staying positive, yet somehow, she managed to stay upbeat for the team to make it their best season yet. She says that her greatest accomplishment this season was pushing my team to be better runners than me, because my job as a captain isn't to be the best, it is to push my teammates to be the best. I knew they all could, if they worked for it, and they did."

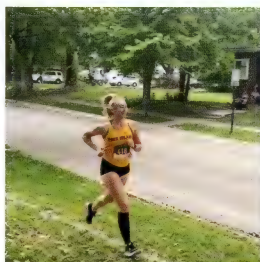
Besides the runners' personal accomplishments, Williams says that the team's greatest accomplishment was "supporting each other on and off the course." The team not only grew as individuals, but also as a family.



"I feel like Cross Country has helped me develop school pride because when I run, I run not only for myself, but for my school, and I feel like representing my school also represents my pride."

- Eva Essman

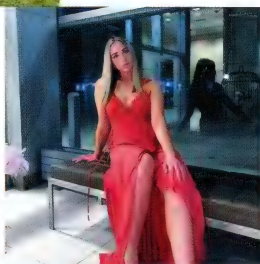
**PRIDE
PLACE**



Seniors
2021

**START
STRONG
FINISH
STRONGER**

ON



"Running with my teammates made me stronger."
Makenzie Terry, Grade 10

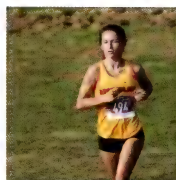


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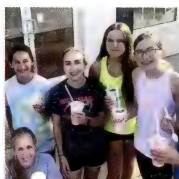
"Being a part of the Cross Country Team made me physically and mentally stronger. During the season, I was able to overcome some of those mental blocks while running."
Eva Essman, Grade 9

OFF



"Cross Country made me stronger physically because it is really hard work on my body, and spiritually, because the team's strength made us a family."
Rebecca Ferguson, Grade 11

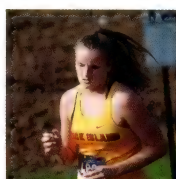
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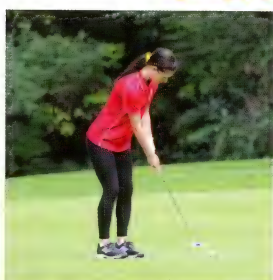
"Cross Country made me stronger because it pushed me to overcome many physical and mental challenges. The support from my coach and teammates helped me reach past my limits, and feel proud of myself."
Cheyenne Stanley, Grade 9

pRide on the course

From the roaming, green hills of golf courses and bumpy rides on the bus, the Rock Island High School Girls' Golf Team is no stranger to distance. This season was marked by new players, returning teammates, and the wonderful coaches, who made it all possible. Mrs. Shari Thompson and her husband both worked diligently to bring the girls into a new sport for most, and an ever-changing environment, in which they excelled. New members of the team included Chloe Turner, Halie Viernow, and Kyleigh Hughes. Returning members included Abbi Rasmussen and Edie Crayne, though Crayne played only half the season. Rasmussen was the only upperclassman, a senior, and Turner, being a freshman, and Crayne, Viernow, and Hughes are sophomores. With many of the girls never having held a golf club, they all played to the best of their abilities and skills. Hughes states, "The team helps you, even if you've never played before, and they don't stress you to play for everyone else. They want you to play for your own benefit." In both their Conference and Regional Meets, the team played well, but ended in last place for each. Their spirits were not downcast, but instead, uplifted, for they had fun and played good games. "We finished at the bottom of the Conference, but our Conference Meet was at Saukie, our home course, which allowed for the girls to have a really good day, and accomplish some personal bests," stated Thompson. Despite the year being confusing for the sport, and the inability to gather, the team did exceptionally well, and made amazing memories over the course of their season. They showed their Rocky Pride, even under tough circumstances, with only better memories to be made in the future.

PRIDE

PLACE



"Going into a new sport without knowing anything about it, and everyone around you helping you learn, build your confidence, and get to the best you can be is something about Rocky that other schools just don't have."

- Kyleigh Hughes, 10



REGIONALS

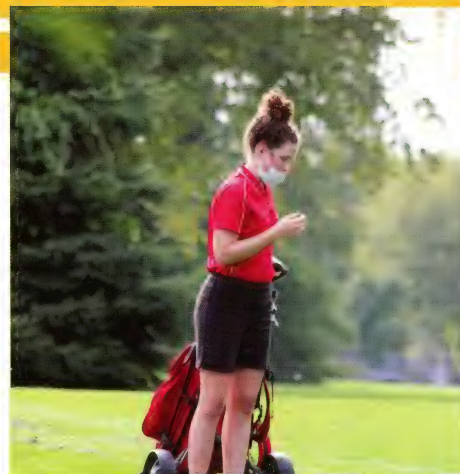
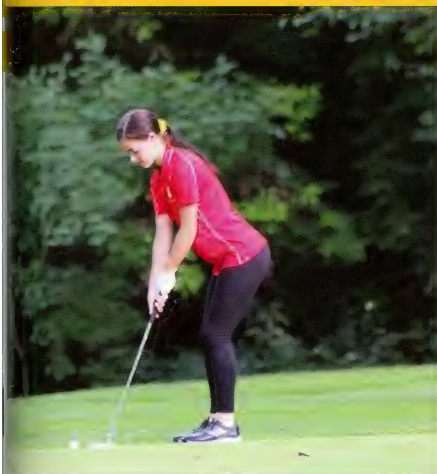
Grade		Score
10	Kyleigh Hughes	126
9	Chloe Turner	134
10	Halie Viernow	136
12	Abbi Rasmussen	163



ON THE COURSE

The girls had a terrific season, with several new additions to the team. And although they didn't qualify for Sectionals, the Rock Island Girls' Golf Team still played an amazing game. Taking the top score for the team was sophomore, Kyleigh Hughes, with a score of 126. Good job, girls! The team's biggest accomplishment was, "Being able to see the girls' scores improve from the beginning to the end of the season," states Coach Thompson.

The Final Meet

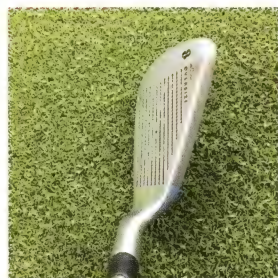


Who's Behind the Magic

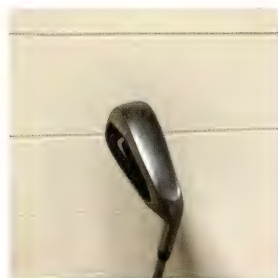
Mrs. Shari Thompson has been coaching Girl's Golf at Rock Island High School since 2012. This year is her 8th and final year with the athletic department, and she has loved every second of it. Although the fall season, this year, was much different and complicated when compared to her previous coaching years, she continued to teach and care for the team, in spite of all the obstacles. "They all started out as beginner golfers, and went through a lot of practice and hard work. We were able to see the great improvements they all made by the end," Coach Thompson states. Their season was unconventional, but still amazing. The girls had fun, made memories, and played some good games, all under the wing of Mrs. Thompson and her husband.

Favorite Clubs

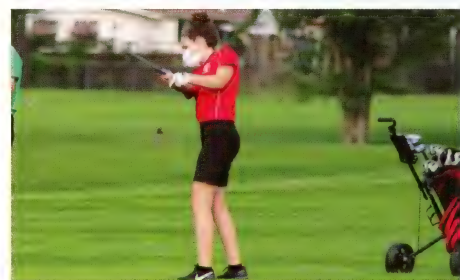
"My 8 iron is my favorite."
- Halie Viernow



"Definitely, my 6 iron!"
- Kyleigh Hughes

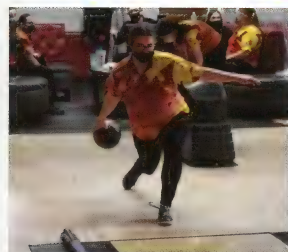


"My favorite memory of the season was probably the bus rides on the way to the meets and on the way back from them."
- Halie Viernow



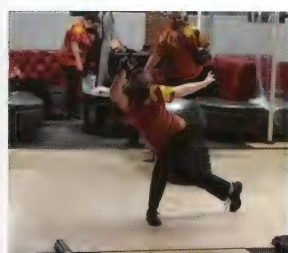
"My favorite memory would have to be our first meet together, and the bus rides with the team."
- Chloe Turner

Senior Spotlight



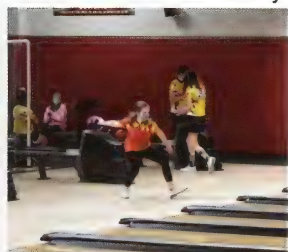
Sarah Stevanovic

"My favorite memory was spending time with my teammates at State and the dual meets."



Macy O'Mary

"Spending time with the team last year at State before COVID ruined everything."



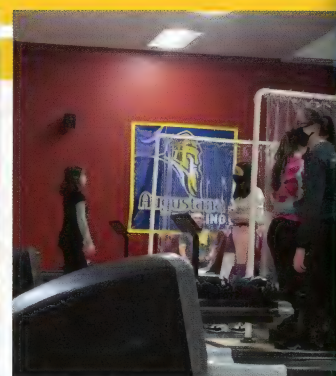
Erin Tegatz

"The fun night we had at the end of the season each year."

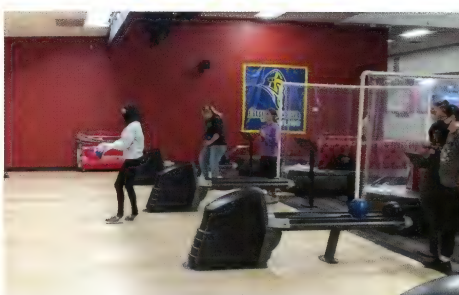


Emma Long

"My favorite memory is spending time with my teammates at meets."

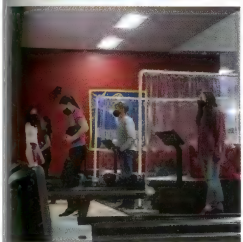
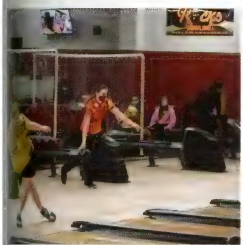
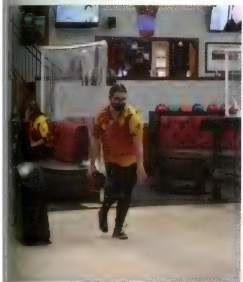


PRIDE PLACE



"With COVID-19, the team and I are always wearing our masks while we are bowling 24-7 because that is one of the rules that the IHSA set for our season, so far."

- Sarah Stevanovic



Returning to the Lanes

This wasn't like any other year for the RIHS Girls' Bowling Team. With two practices in November, and then a month-long break, the girls weren't sure they would get a season at all.

Luckily, they were able to return with certain restrictions in place. The alley they practice in, Backyard Bowl, had plastic sheets separating each pair on lanes, encouraged social distancing, and required masks. The team also took temperatures before every practice and meet.

With a dampened season, the girls found other ways to stay motivated. One thing they did was create their own unofficial mascots. "This year, there was a tiny stuffed cow," which the team named 'Stall-y Parton', "and some rubber ducks," Coach Jim Braet states.

This newfound motivation paid off, as the team had many accomplishments. Braet says that this year, he's most proud of "Our 9-2 record, after losing three of our top bowlers due to graduation. Also, getting our second All-Conference Bowler, Sarah Stevanovic!"

To celebrate their successes, the team hosts Senior Night, where the senior bowlers are recognized and celebrated, and "Fun Night, where we bowl, have pizza, and vote for season awards," explains Braet.

All in all, the 2020-2021 girl's bowling season was successful, and hopefully, the team can bowl normally next year.

“



Sarah Stevanovic, Senior

"COVID-19 has not only affected me as a senior bowler, it has also affected my team with tournaments, and having the chance to qualify for higher tournaments. Practice was also hard because the bowling alleys were closed."

”

Carli Gordon, Junior



"COVID-19 is taking away weekend tournaments and State tournaments, and it was hard for me to work on skills as an individual to help the team in matches and tournaments."



2020 - 2021 Girls' Bowling

Back Row: Bailey Sholl, Olivia Sholl, Emma Long, Mahiela Hewitt, Bailey Hecker, Phoebe Fuller.
Front Row: Erin Teggatz, Macy O'Mary, Sarah Stevanovic, Carli Gordon, Makenzie Terry.

PRIDE

PLACE



"I show Rocky pride by going to other sporting events, and making sure I represent Rocky the best way possible."

Colton Sigel, 12



"I show my Rocky pride by going to sporting events and cheering on our teams."

- Eli Boeye



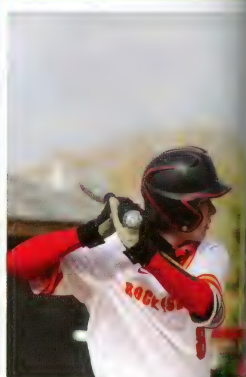
"I show my Rocky pride by wearing Rocky gear around the community, and acting the right way".

- Zach DeMarlie



"I show Rocky pride by supporting all athletes, band, and theater. Because of COVID, it was harder this year, but I made sure to tune in online to watch everyone do their thing."

- Tyler Hansen





BE GOOD, NOT COOL

This year, the Boys' Baseball Team had a later start than normal, due to scheduling changes because of COVID19. Despite this adjustment, Coach Scudder's expectations for the Rocks remained high. "Our goals, as a program, this year are to win 80% of our non-Conference games, 80% of our home games, and to win a Conference Championship," he explained.

The Rocks were led by Colton Sigel, Tyler Hansen, Eli Boeys, and Zach DeMarlie. "They are knowledgeable of the game, and try to go about their business the correct way on a daily basis, which sets a good example for the rest of our program," Scudder stated. Since the team lost a season last year, the boys returned no letterwinners from the previous seasons. Scudder explains that underclassmen have impacted the team quite a bit, including Conner Dilulio and Dylan Martin.

While losing a season to COVID in 2020 might have been tough initially, the team has definitely made up for lost time. Scudder explains, "The best moment we have had as a team through 16 games would have to be our Wednesday, April 28th game against Moline @ Douglas Park. It was a rainy and overcast day, but still a huge crowd, and a very good environment! We had a 7-5 lead going into the 7th inning, Moline proceeded to score 8 runs in the top of the 7th inning to take a 13 to 7 lead going into the bottom of the 7th. We then scored 7 runs without recording an out to come back and win against a big rival for us, that we have not beaten since 2013. It was a huge win for our kids and our program."

Regardless of the final outcome, the Rocks have learned a lot from this new season, and Scudder hopes those lessons will stick with the boys throughout their lives. "I hope they leave the program in a better place than when they arrived. If this happens, that means that we, as coaches, did our job in not only preparing them for college, or whatever they would like to pursue following high school. We hope to have instilled accountability in their lives, as well as a hard working mindset. Lastly, we hope they leave our program with lifelong friendships and memories with teammates and coaches," Scudder explains.



"With directing, it really helped me appreciate everything Foster and other teachers do to help and support us through the process. Directing with this group really put me into a teacher's shoes for a minute and made me appreciate them all even more!"
- Addison VandeWalle

PRIDE PLACE

LIGHTS, CAMERA, RECORD?

A different look to a Fall Play, but a great lesson for those involved!

Preparing a Fall Play can be hard, especially during a pandemic. This year, the Rock Island High School students, leadership team, lead director, and stage crew took on the challenge to record a Fall Play, so everyone can watch the production safely at home. During the making of it, there were some challenges they faced, but the group also had lots of fun and made new memories.

When directing the play, Addison VandeWalle and Georgi Feigley, two members of the leadership team, had set goals they wanted to accomplish during the production. One of VandeWalle's goals was, "To get the play done for this fall like every other year." And Feigley's goal was, "To film a full show." The cast and crew always face a few challenges during Fall Play, but this year's were unique due to COVID. "Because we filmed outside, one of our biggest challenges was the weather," said VandeWalle. Feigley explained additional challenges, stating, "One was scheduling teachers and the cast at the best times," and "unforeseen issues would come up during rehearsal, and the leadership team would have to adjust to the new schedule." It was very stressful for everyone, but that didn't stop them from having an amazing time and finishing the filming.

A lot about this year's production made those involved feel like newcomers. VandeWalle said, "Almost all of us were newcomers in some sort of way. This was the leadership team's first time directing, and a lot of our actors were fairly new, as well." The leadership team is a group of four Rocky students, including, Logan Braun, senior, Layla Eygabroad, junior, Addison VandeWalle, junior, and Georgi Feigley, junior. As a team, they worked together, but they all had different roles for the production. "The leaders who really took charge were all the people on the leadership team of the play," Feigley said. They even got to act in the play too, which might have made things a little harder when also directing, but it was a great experience for them.

Even though it might have been stressful for the two girls to direct and act in the play, they also made many memories. For VandeWalle, there were many, but, "Being able to get together safely was amazing," she explained. For Feigley, her favorite memory was, "Being a fashionable zombie in the scene of the play. It was super fun and hilarious!" After the show was directed and edited, it was live streamed for a few days, and the cast was able to watch it themselves! "Watching the show this year was definitely a new experience! Looking at it from a director's point of view made me very proud of the cast," VandeWalle said. Traditionally, the actors perform in front of an audience on stage at school. For Feigley, "It was enjoyable to watch because I could see the results and reception from the audience's perspective!" she explained.

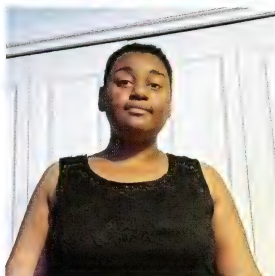
This year, the cast and crew of the Fall Play made memories and had an exciting time. Being a part of the Fall Play gave them time to be outside of their house, and a break from online school. Even though the Fall Play was different this year because of COVID, it was a new experience for the cast, crew, and audience, too.

CHARACTER COUNTS

The cast from the Fall Play explains who their characters were and what they did.



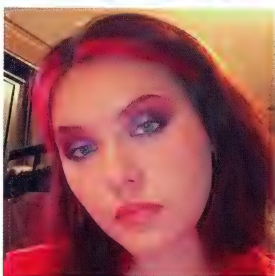
"I was Narrator 1. The narrators drive the plot forward by making all the horror tropes happen to an unsuspecting family."
- Nevaeh Sedlak



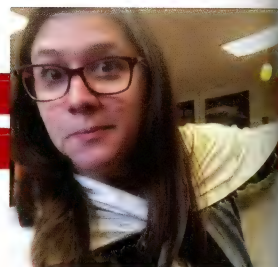
"In the Fall Play, my character is Narrator 2. Both of the narrators are kind of like these other worldly beings, who can make things happen in this world. In the play, they explain what happens to a family, so you can see all different aspects of a horror film put together."
- Raja Mims



"I portrayed Timmy, who is a junior in high school, and has the picture perfect family and a girlfriend that lives next door. I'm one of the first family members to be entranced by a magical book my little sister, Jane, has. Soon, the book takes over the whole family, minus Jane, and I'm still in a sort of zombified mood the whole play during my family scenes."
- Eli Reedy



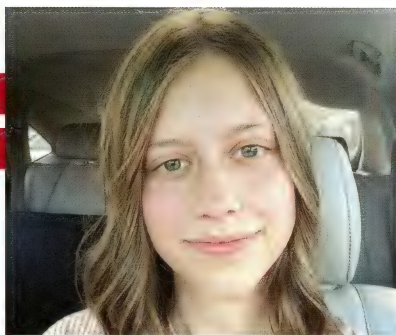
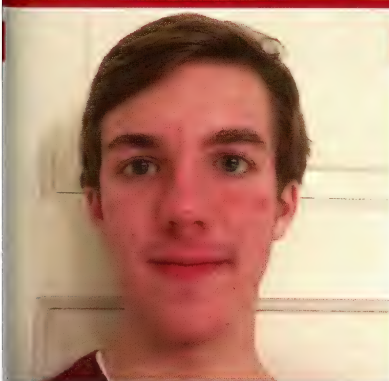
"I play Tammy, the girlfriend of Tim. She became entranced by the book that Tim held, and ran away from the monster when Tim got her out of being entranced, and we got in the car, and were killed."
- Kayliana Trahan



"It's been a challenge in so many ways. I've never recorded shows for public streaming before, so that's one thing I'm learning a lot about. Most of the creative has been left up to the students. They have control of the artistic elements and collaborate heavily with each other."
- Mrs. Foster



"It's honestly such a unique experience. The challenge of figuring out how to be safe during production has actually allowed us to create unique solutions and ideas for the play, in general, too!"
- Logan Braun

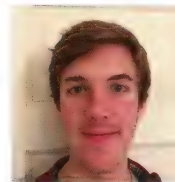


"Planning a socially distanced play has been tricky. There are a lot of moving parts, and it was hard to find people to fill the roles. Despite that, we've had lots of fun rehearsing outdoors. We are very lucky to still be able to do what we love, even if it doesn't look like it usually does."
- Layla Eygabroad



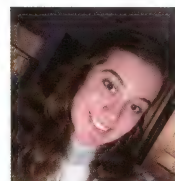
FAVORITE LINE FAVORITE SCENE

Rocky's actors and actresses explain what their favorites are from the virtual Fall Play.



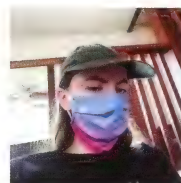
Logan Braun, Senior

"My favorite line would be, it sounds immature, but, 'Or wet their pants!' Both of the narrators said it, and I just loved the energy, and they had fun with it. And, I just wish every single line in the play had that energy, but if it was only that line, I'd still be happy."



Georgi Feigley, Junior

"My favorite scene from the Fall Play was the zombie horde scene, where a large group of the cast devoured a piece of cauliflower."



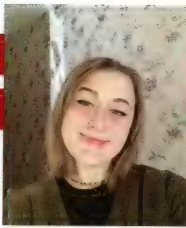
Gale Hauskins, Sophomore

"I enjoyed the mad scientist scene, where I got to put on a bike helmet and laugh manically. That was a lot of fun."



Eli Reedy, Freshman

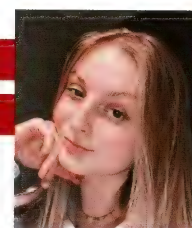
"My favorite scene in the play is probably the monster chase scene, where it shows different scenarios of how to hide from a monster. It was fun for the whole cast, and not a hassle to go through and shoot."



"NHS has made me work harder in my community. I will carry my work ethic and drive because it has inspired me into future aspirations and acts of love for things I care about."
Charly Heber Spates, Senior



"I like NHS because of the leadership and responsibility it comes with. I also like setting a good example for our school."
Colton Sigel, Senior



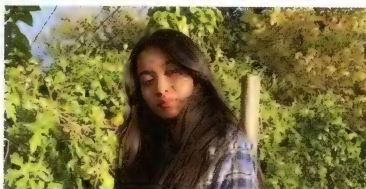
"NHS is such a big accomplishment and it has made me want to work hard every day to maintain the spot."
Rachel Wangler, Senior

NHS Officers



"The role of an NHS officer comes with many responsibilities. During our meetings, I lead discussion, and create opportunities for questions. As an officer of NHS, I organize the layout of our induction ceremony. Being the President of NHS is a great honor, and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish during the 2020-2021 year. NHS helps progress my leadership skills by pushing me to maintain high grades, meaningful relationships with my peers, and an understanding of the significance that NHS upholds."

Calvin Banks, NHS President

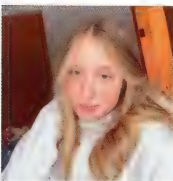


"I am the Vice President. I aid the president and place emphasis on what he says and does. I like being a part of NHS because it upholds my priorities, like keeping good grades and volunteering in my community. This position has strengthened my work ethic and reminded me of the community, which is something very important to me."

Say Say, NHS Vice President



"I like being a part of the NHS because it shows how dedicated I am to both academics and to improving my community."
- Georgi Feigley, Grade 11



"I like being part of the NHS because it is a really great group of students and friends that I enjoy being around, and it looks good on college applications."
- Eleanor Blew, Grade 12

Making the School a Better Place, One Student at a Time...

National Honor Society



The National Honor Society is a group that honors Rocky students, who have gone above and beyond academically and with community service. Mrs. Hayek, the advisor, says, "Eligible sophomores will be invited to join after this first semester ends." Sophomores through seniors are recognized in the spring.

Due to COVID, NHS hasn't been able to be in person, and some students have had more challenges completing their 10 hours of volunteer service. Maintaining their 3.5 g.p.a. is more challenging than usual. So, this year is a bit different for the group.

Despite the differences in the year, the group still maintains its values. Mrs. Hayek explained, "Leadership, Scholarship, Service, and Character are the four pillars. We hope that our members are being good people in society, which is important not just in academics. Leadership, service, and good character are evident."

Mrs. Hayek explains, "We hope to recognize students, particularly seniors, during second semester with a virtual slideshow or movie. It will take more careful planning, organization, and consistent communication, but we will make it happen." This year, Calvin Banks, Say Say, and Noah Rettig are the group's student leaders.



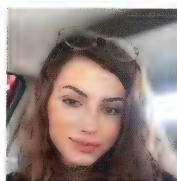
Inside NHS...

Mrs. Greenwood shares what it is like working alongside Mrs. Hayek as co-advisors.

"It just means so much to me to be able to work with someone I respect and enjoy so much. Mrs. Hayek is not only a wonderful teacher, but a fantastic role model for our NHS students, as she embodies the four pillars of the society. I am thankful I was given the opportunity to share in this experience with her," explained Greenwood.



"NHS has made me more aware of how you can make a huge change in your community."
- Drew Jarding, Grade 11



"NHS will help me prepare for the future by helping me achieve my goals in school."
- Natella Alieva, Grade 12

PRIDE PLACE

"While NHS members strive to uphold four pillars (character, scholarship, leadership, and service), they also develop pride. As they work to maintain their 3.5 g.p.a., they develop Rocky Pride of personal achievement. And when they volunteer a minimum of 10 hours, NHS members strengthen Rocky Pride in their community. This community pride, along with their personal pride, provides a foundation as they continue their journey after graduation."

- Mrs. Hayek



"I play club volleyball for the Iowa Rockets because it makes me happy, and I get to build strong relationships with my teammates."

Addison Bomelyn, 9



"I play travel softball for the QC Firebirds because I love playing the game and being able to travel across the Midwest, and making memories."

Sydney Quinones, 11



"I play softball for the Texas Glory, and I play because I've played it my whole life, and it's one of my favorite things to do. I hope to one day play in college, as well."

Delia Schwartz, 11



"I play club volleyball for Iowa Select, and I play because my goal is to play volleyball in college, and playing for a travel team is the best way to achieve that goal."

Emily Allison, 11



"I play travel softball for the QC Firebirds, and I play it because I get the opportunity to build relationships and make memories with my teammates."

Isabella Allison, 11



"I play basketball for Mid-Pro Academy, and I play it because it's an opportunity to play with some new people, and against good competition."

Colton Sigel, 12

Club Sports



"I play baseball for Emb Gold. I play because I want to get college exposure."

Tyler Hansen, 11



"I play travel softball for Tennessee Mojo. I play because I love playing with my friends, and all the opportunities it has given me."

Taylor Pannell, 11



"I play volleyball for Platform Elite Volleyball Club because I grew up watching my cousins play, and I wanted to be just like them."

Alaina Esposito, 9



"I play for Eric Munson Baseball, and the reason I play travel baseball is to play against the best competition and get in front of college coaches."

Elijah Boeye, 11



I play for Muscatine Soccer Club, and I play because it is a good opportunity for me to take soccer more serious."

Olivia Bowman, 11

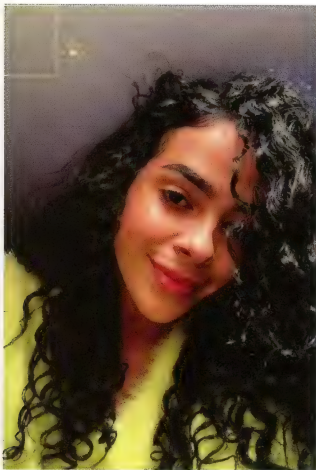


"I play for Texas Glory, and I play because I want to spend time with my friends and have fun."

Bailey Proffitt, 11

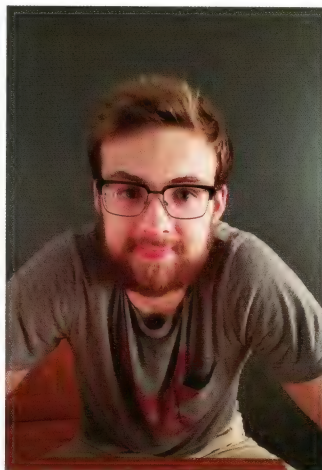
WHERE TO NEXT?

→ Rocky students explain where they have traveled, and where they would like to go next, when they are able.



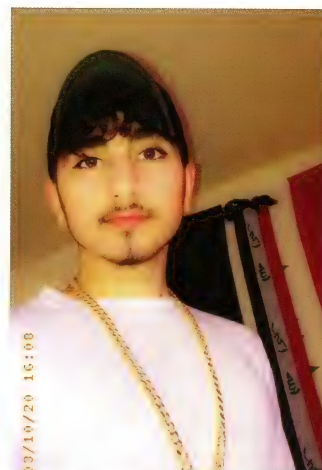
Marai Frometa

"I've traveled to Cuba, and something I really like about the country is that they have beautiful views, amazing food, and I really enjoyed the beautiful beaches."



Payton Cassidy

"My family has a cabin in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It's about an hour away from a town, and it's really unique because of how dark it gets at night. You can also see the stars really well."



Murad Ahmed

"I traveled to Florida, and it was just amazing, and just being by the beach, it was amazing."



Dominic Saucedo-Serra

"I'd like to travel to Oregon because of how unique and awesome the landscape is."



Eh Doh

"A place I always wanted to visit would be Hawaii. I always see the pretty beaches in movies, and I think Hawaii would be a dope place to visit."



Rafael Lopez

"I would like to go to Dubai to see the tallest building and the biggest malls in the world. Also, there's a lot of activities you can do."



Law Dee

"I have traveled to Arizona, and the thing I most love about Arizona are the hills and the people."



Hae Soe

"I would like to travel back to Thailand to see where I was born, and learn more about my mother country."

THERE

from the

START



Natella Alieva
Midwest Technical Institute

"It was different at the start of the pandemic because everyone wore masks."



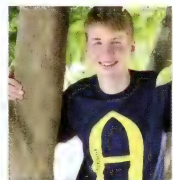
Ella McKinley
Bryant University

"There were a ton of precautions put in place, such as social distancing. Overall, still very enjoyable."



Sarah Stevanovic
Quincy University

"It was a different experience because you could not go into all of the places."



Donovan Garro
Augustana College

"I got so used to living during the pandemic that the visit felt normal."



Tommy Smith
Concordia University

"It was a simple visit, but we just had to have masks on everywhere."



Andrea Rangel
Columbia University

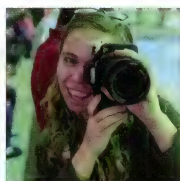
"I am very excited to start. The campus is beautiful, and I have met future peers."

Senior Pandemic Campus Tours



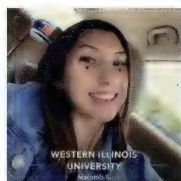
Cassidy DeMeyer
Loras College

"Everything was outside, and we did not visit the classrooms, but we did get to go to the library."



Allyson Smithson
Iowa State

"I actually got to visit before the pandemic began, and I will be attending ISU in the Fall!"



Tabitha Ashpaugh
Western Illinois University

"It was unfortunate not being able to see classrooms, but the tour guide was nice."



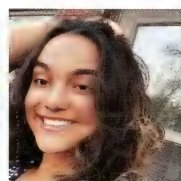
Calvin Banks
University of Missouri

"A college visit during the pandemic was different because buildings were closed."



Colton Sigel
Carthage College

"Meeting all my future teammates and coaches got me very excited."



Mariyam Talybova
Loyola University

"I hope to go on an in person visit soon because I love Chicago, but the virtual visit was super helpful."

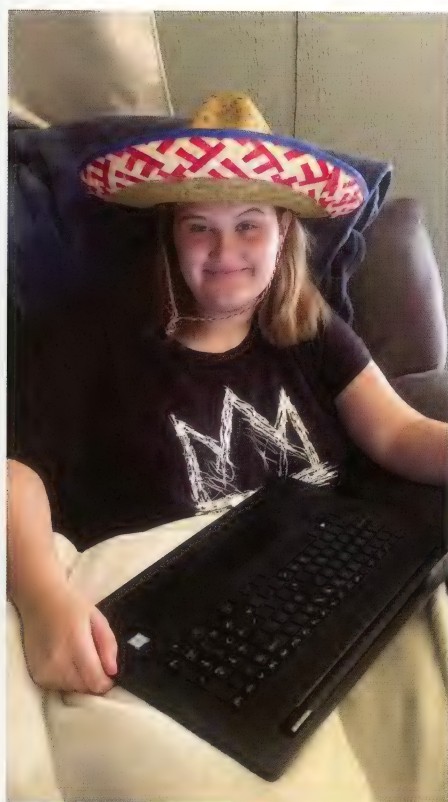
BACK TO SCHOOL *then* BACK HOME

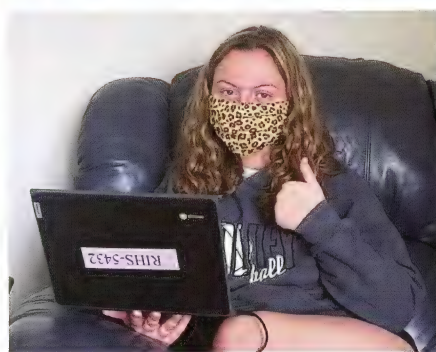
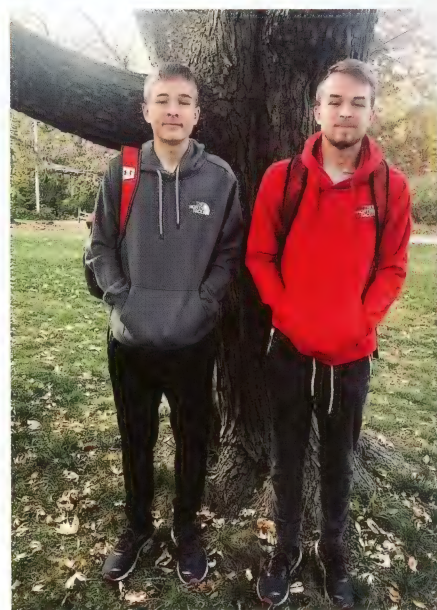
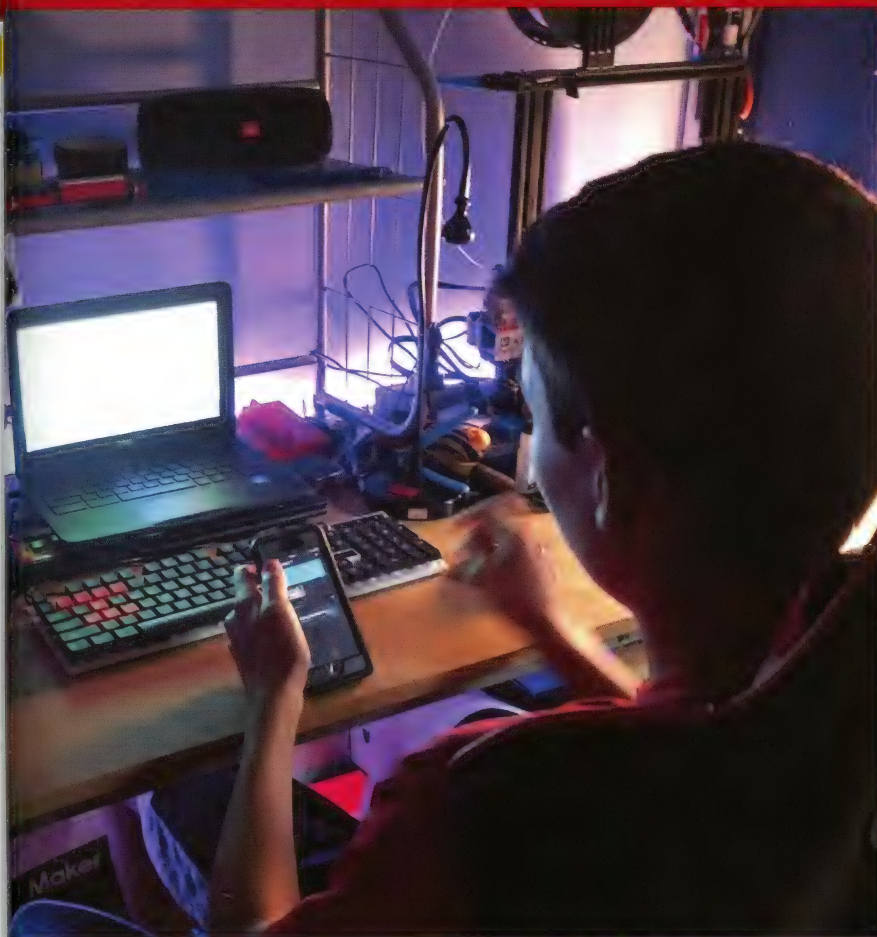
After being at home for so long over quarantine, returning to school was both something students looked forward to and had to get used to. Some just saw the return as life just finally going back to normal. In August, all students started remotely. In October, students had the choice to stay home and do full remote learning or to come into the school to learn face to face with blended learning with their teachers twice a week. After returning to blended learning briefly, all students and teachers were sent home again from Thanksgiving through two weeks after New Year's due to outbreaks. In January, Rocky started with blended learning again, while still allowing students to be fully remote, if they chose.

Senior, Emily Pearson, a fully remote student said, "It was definitely different, not having to get up and get ready to go see my friends after a long summer, but instead, seeing everyone on my computer screen, especially for my senior year." Pearson also has a job, and being full remote has let her work more. For Pearson, the more challenging part of remote learning was trying to get used to the extra steps to adapting to not being in the classroom setting and not being with her friends in school.

On the other hand, Kaylee Plohr, chose blended learning because she missed seeing and talking to all of the teachers and students at school. Plohr thinks being online can be easy and hard, at times. Plohr said, "Being online is easier because I can take things at my own pace and take breaks when I need to, but it is also harder because teachers can't answer my questions as fast as they would if we weren't online." Everyone's first day of school was different this year, but for Plohr, her online first day of school was different because it made her feel like she was inside a lot more than she really was, and made it seem like she had more time to do things.

This year was different from any other year this generation (or really, any other generation of Rocks) has ever experienced before. Students have dealt with multiple schedule changes, moving in and out of their classrooms, and learning online only for the first time in Rocky's history. There were new challenges for everyone to face, but one day, Rocks will look back and tell the story about how they got to lay in bed every day for school, like they all once asked for and joked about.





Thanks For Everything, Coach.

[Rocky says goodbye to two longtime RI Coaches.]



Thom Sigel is one of, if not the most, successful coaches who has led the Boys' Basketball program at Rock Island High School. Coach Sigel has coached a total of 32 years, and 20 of them have been with the Rocks. Sigel has always been involved with basketball, as he grew up playing basketball, and continued his playing career at Knox College. His basketball success is without question, as he has won two state championships in his coaching career. One of those championships was with his first head coaching job at Rock Falls, and one was with the Rocks in 2011, which was also the first basketball state championship Rock Island has ever won. As Coach Sigel has decided to retire this year, he knows he has accomplished great stats and records, but his greatest accomplishment, he feels, is "being able to stay in contact with former players, and see how they have grown, as men." Although Coach Sigel is retiring from coaching, he is not fully retiring from Rocky. He is still going to be a counselor, like he has been for the past 20 years, and help the kids in the classroom, instead of the court. Now that he has stepped down from coaching, Coach Sigel states that he "will miss being a part of a team, and the competitive aspects of coaching." He states he "will have more free time than I did. I am not sure exactly how I will manage without coaching, but at least when the weather is nice enough, I figure I will golf more than I have." Sigel said that he is excited to see what the future holds for him. While the Rocks will miss Sigel on the court, the program is lucky to have had his leadership.

Even though she never thought she would be a coach, Shari Thompson has led the Girls' Golf Team for 8 years.

She started at Rocky as a PE teacher and a sub. Her daughter playing golf encouraged Thompson to get involved with the program, and that is where she got to learn, and start to love the sport. When the former coach for the team retired, Thompson knew she was capable of filling her spot. While she was coaching, she got to connect with all the girls on the team in a different way than she was able to in the classroom. One of Thompson's favorite aspects of coaching was "watching the athletes improve from being non-golfers to being competitive," she explained. Now that Thompson has retired, she will miss just "being at Rocky every day, and seeing all the other teachers and staff I have worked with over the years," she stated. Thompson not only impacted students in the classroom, as a teacher, but she had a positive influence on many athletes, who she coached.

She helped them learn the game of golf, and inspired them to be the best that they could be as people, students, and athletes. Now that she has time off, she will be able to spend time with her family, and golf in her free time!



"I model for Brick and Motor Boutique. It is a mobile fashion boutique that travels around the Midwest, but is based in Rock Island. I enjoy it because of the boost of confidence and positive vibes."

Emily Pearson, 12



"I am all for supporting small and local businesses. I enjoy the genuine care and customer service that comes from local businesses. I work at Lady T's Catering and love it!"

Eliza Aleman, 11



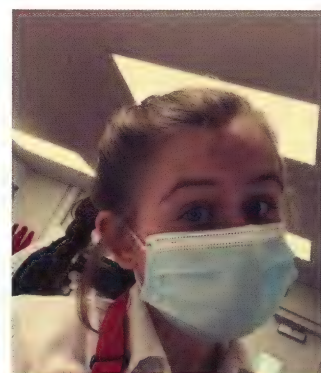
"Cookies & Dreams is a very positive workplace that I enjoy spending my time at. Everyone is so friendly, and I would highly recommend it to anyone wanting to try a new dessert place!"

Emily Hernandez, 12



"I really enjoy supporting and working at Whitey's. Everyone loves it, and I have created great bonds with my coworkers. They make the long nights fun and exciting."

Brooke Farrance, 12



"I love the friendly environment at Little Rock and Gem Shop. The owners are extremely helpful and supportive, and it is always a good visit."

Serah Waqa, 12



"I really love Rozz Tox Cafe in downtown Rock Island. It is a small nighttime cafe. The people there are the coolest, and the events they hold are so much fun."

Charly Heber-Spates, 12



"I could not live without Icy Bubbles. I try a different recommended drink every time I go, and I am glad to begin working there and become part of the business."

Avery Donaldson, 12



"My family and I love Talliha Designs for her jewelry, Arlo & Elm because of the unique decor, and Pizza and Subs for their pizzas and calzones. We do our best to support local!"

Camryn Milefchik, 10

supporting
SMALL

**Though the
future
years may
part us**



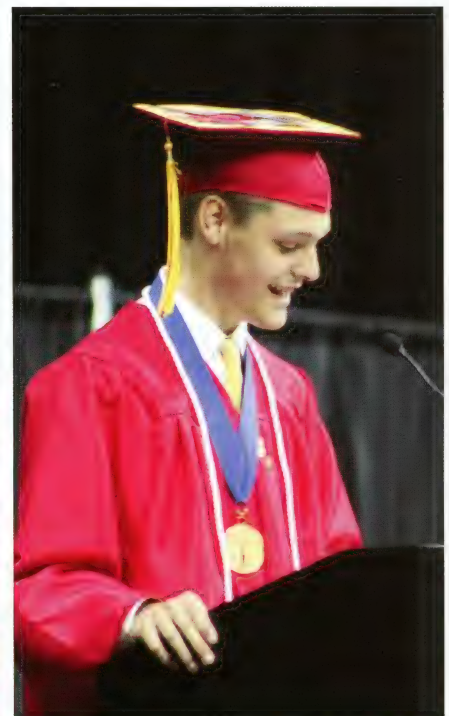
**Still together
now,**



Graduation Day



**Faith and
love to old
Rock
Island**



**Ever more
we vow.**

Hobbies In Quarantine

There is nothing more fulfilling than doing something you love. Whether that be baking bread, knitting a sweater, or playing the guitar, as long as it brings you joy, it's worth your time. During this last year, amid the rise of self isolation and changes to daily routines, many students have found the time to learn new hobbies. They had to be creative in order to find joy elsewhere, in a time where it was not always easiest to spot. Senior Charly Heber-Spates began making earrings with supplies from Jo-Ann's Fabric, Senior Rachel Loomis made clay creations, Senior Say Say began designing her own jeans, and Senior Jonathan Knuth took up embroidery. Heber-Spates says, "I felt really down most of quarantine. After May finished, I got to the point where I was like, nothing is changing any time soon, I might as well be doing something to try to make myself feel better." Creations like these are a part of what makes life so amazing- everyone is capable of artistry.

STUDENTS' CREATIONS:

Charly Heber-Spates



Rachel Loomis

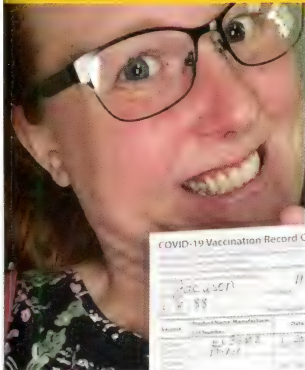


Say Say

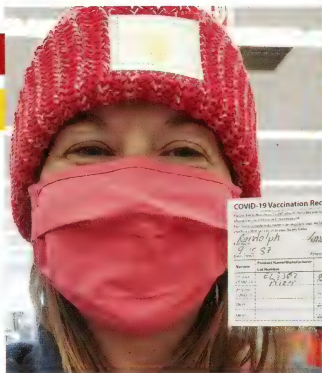


Jonathan Knuth





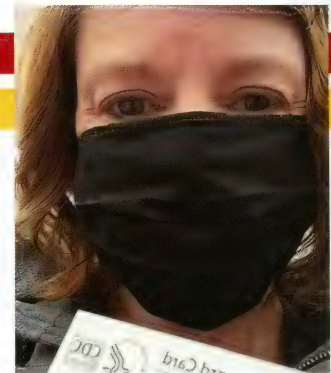
"I got the vaccine to hopefully allow some normalcy back to our lives."
- Mrs. Jackson



"I got the vaccine for two reasons, to keep those I care about safe, and to do my part in ending this deadly pandemic."
- Mrs. Randolph



"I want to hug my children again! I want to keep my husband, father, and family safe, and survive this pandemic."
- Mrs. Anderson



"My father is in a nursing home, and I desperately want to see him. Getting the vaccine will make that happen!"
- Mrs. Mendelin



"I work with the public, so I got the vaccine to protect my family and community. It felt rewarding taking that small step to normal life."
- Ella Spence



"It felt great to know I'm one step closer to being protected. Every time I felt my sore arm, I just thought, 'Take that COVID-19!'"
- Mrs. Grayson



"I wanted to help stop the spread to my friends, family, and others. It felt amazing to get the vaccine, and to know I was doing my part."
- Emma Widick



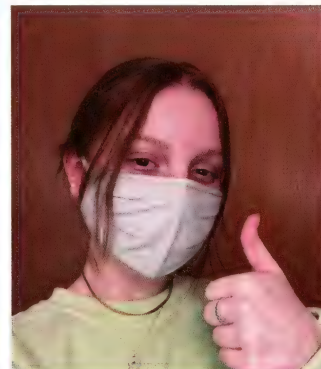
"I decided to get the vaccine to do my part to help protect my family, friends, and my students."
- Mrs. Greenwood



"To keep people safe and to see family again! I feel like I'm helping out by keeping people safe."
- Emily Pearson



"I got the vaccine because I am an educator and believe it's my duty to be well and not pass COVID to any students or staff."
- Mrs. Oswald



"I got the vaccine to protect my community and the people I love. It felt good to take a step to normalcy."
- Rachel Wangler

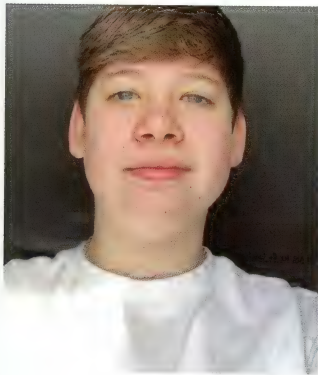


"I had my daughter at the start of the pandemic, and would do anything to protect her from any sickness."
- Mrs. Resch

A SHOT@ *normalcy*



"I would say my Iphone11."
- Brooke Farrance



"I bought my Homage to Home Jordan Ones."
- Noah Keever

YOU'VE GOT



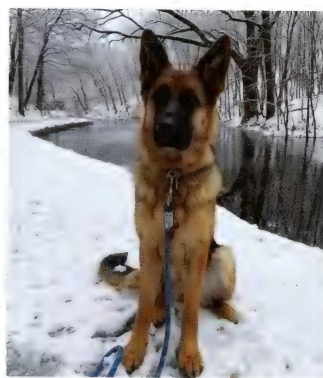
[With online purchases increasing during the pandemic, students and staff explain their COVID19 purchases.]



"My biggest purchase would my Jordan Mocha Ones."
- Delaney Hoing



"I bought a PC."
- Carlos Cervantes

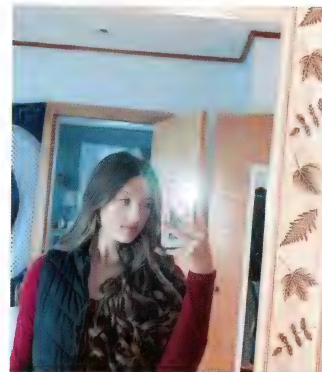


"I purchased a puppy! I got her because my husband and I realized this could be our only chance to raise a puppy, and have time to be with it. Spring of 2020, we officially started to look for a dog, and found our German Shepherd, Aria.

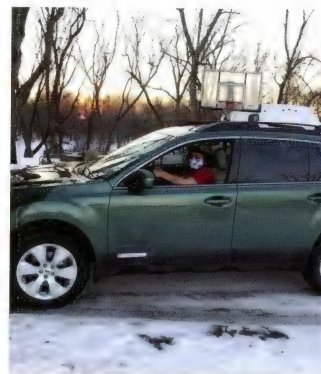
- Mrs. Grayson



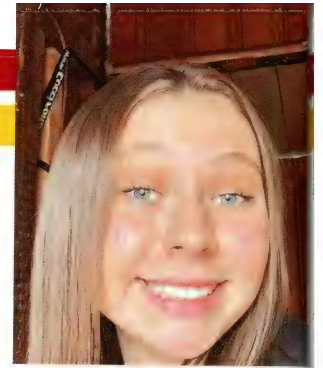
"I bought a piano and a game system."
- Niyonkuru Cornelio



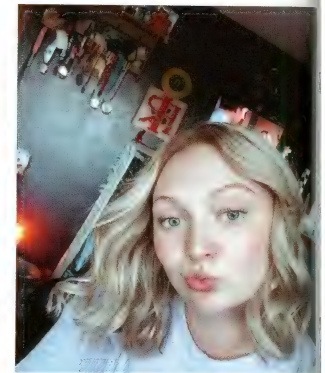
"I bought my first car."
- Cassidy DeMeyer



"I bought a new vehicle!"
- Mrs. Parer



"My Apple watch."
- Ashlynn Canfield



"My biggest purchase was skin care from Ulta."
- Lauren Weeks



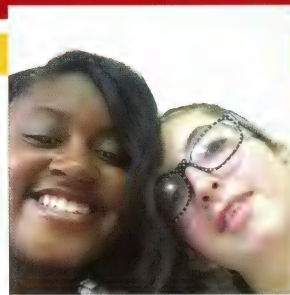
"I bought a new house."
- Mr. McCollum



Kerrigan Lewis and Aubry Berry:
Freshman Year to Now



JaRaya Carr and Abbi
Rasmussen: 8th Grade to Now



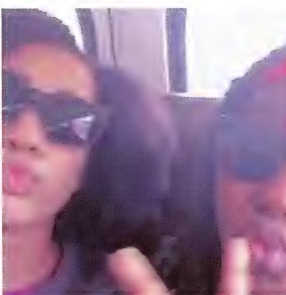
Charlotte Boyer and Raja
Mims: 7th Grade to Now



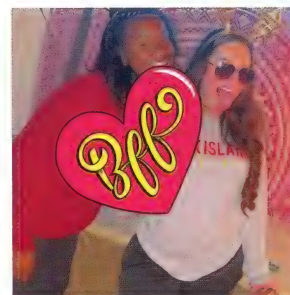
Chloe Killian and Justice
Lockhart: 7th Grade to Now



Asia Stern, Makayla Villarreal, Honor Ford, Hser Nay Chrit, and Poe Dah Wah. "We have been friends since elementary school, but it's a long story. Honor and Makayla were basically friends since pre-school. Then, I moved to Illinois in 2nd grade, and coincidentally, Poe was enrolling in the same school as me. Me and Poe met Asia during volleyball in 3rd/4th grade, then in middle school, we introduced Asia to Honor and Makayla. We had "different friend groups" since middle school kinda separated us, but we still formed a quintet. (I basically brought them together, you know?)"
- Hser Nay Chrit



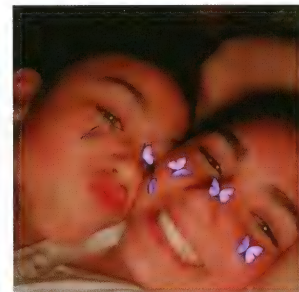
Laticia McCray Brown &
Mahogani Johnson have been
friends since kindergarten on
the monkey bars.



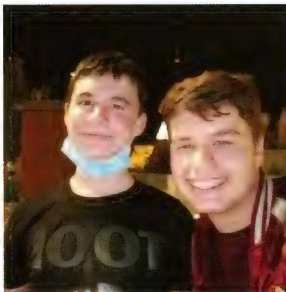
Haley Waffle & Nina
Hamilton have been
friends since their days at
RICMS.



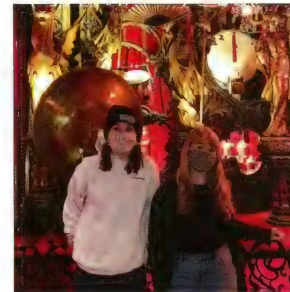
Robvasha Coleman & Aaliyah
Ross:
"We've been friends since we
were babies, and we met at
church." - Robvasha Coleman



Delaney Carroll & Jade
Gasper have been friends
for almost three years,
when they met through
school, and playing soccer
on the same team.



Evan Lyon & Sean Manary
have been friends since on
the bus, coming home from
a choir trip in middle
school.



Lauren Groene and Ella Mekush have known
each other since 2nd grade. Lauren says, "We
hated each other for a long time, but over
time, we learned to like one another. Now, I
love her so very much, and truly think I have
found my soul mate. She is definitely my
person, and is always there for me. The bond
that I have with her is simply irreplaceable,
and it feels like it has existed in many other
lifetimes. I love you, Ella."

(FRIENDS @ THE ROCK)

THICK & THIN

Through



All Stars At Work

JaRaya Carr



Rock Island 1
J & Grade
Student
National
For
Rock Island
Volunteer Chapter at Den
Volunteer at Thor
"I plan on attending a univer
a children's hospital. Later
surgeon; that's my dream I
becoming a nurse so that I
community I want to spread
the world with my medical

"I just recently received the M.L. Lockhart Scholarship from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center. I got a call from Mrs. Page-Pierson, and she told me that she told a woman named Kristia that I was a good candidate for this scholarship. The day Mrs. Page called me, the application was due that same day, so I hurried up and printed my application, and filled it out before I left to go out of town for my birthday. After all the chaos, Mrs. Kristia emailed me, and told me that I won the scholarship. I was so excited, but sadly, I couldn't be there to receive my scholarship, but it was nice to see my picture up on the screen. I felt like I did something great. I watched my mom cry. It was nice to know that all the hours of blood, sweat, tears, and 12 gallons of coffee was worth it. I would do it all over again."

- JaRaya Carr, 12

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a huge accomplishment. This year, three Rock Island students earned their Eagle Scout rank. Jonathan Knuth states, "My achievement was earning the Eagle Scout rank with three additional palms. I achieved this rank by earning six other ranks, and organizing my final Eagle Scout project. The final process took me many hours to complete, with multiple nights of paperwork to finish. A major challenge was paving the brick work to outline the landscaping I did in front of Denkmann Elementary School. This achievement means so much for participating in the Scouting program for over 11 years, and to finally see hard work pay off."

- Jonathan Knuth, 12

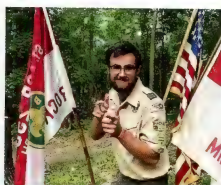
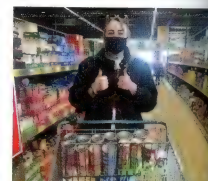


"My achievement is making it to a blind audition of The Voice. I went through the process, really by chance. For this opportunity, that I was fortunate enough to have, I was very lucky to be picked. Some challenges I faced were fear of failing people around me, and worrying if I'm good enough to have such a huge opportunity, like being on The Voice. It meant the world that I was able to audition for The Voice because it shows how much I have accomplished to get to that point, and that I am capable of doing more than I ever could imagine."

- Charlotte Boyer, 11

"One of my achievements has been a food drive I am organizing with Omnia Salih, a junior at United Township. We wanted to help our community as much as it helps us. We have had to contact, negotiate, email, and discuss the process of our drive with multiple organizations to make it possible for the drive to happen. We have had to deal with declined questions, canceled events, and overall, unprofessional service from many organizations that we have contacted, but we are still pursuing our goal to feed our community, despite the difficulty."

- Charly Heber-Spates, 12



Another Rocky student who achieved the Eagle Scout rank was Payton Cassidy. Payton stated, "My achievement is the rank of Eagle Scout. I have earned this award by going through six other ranks, each with their own requirements and challenges. My Eagle Scout project was definitely the most challenging part of this final rank. I built a pergola and tore down a set of stairs at Illiniwek Forest Preserve. Being involved in the scouting program for eleven years has meant a lot for me. Getting to this point marks a great accomplishment that I have worked my whole life for."

- Payton Cassidy, 12

One freshman has gone out of her comfort zone, and learned the skills of ice skating. Presley states, "I remember going ice skating with my parents when I was very young, and I had wanted to try it again to see if it was any fun." Presley has been skating for a few months, and has made tremendous progress. Some of Presley's favorite memories are from "being able to help my little brother learn a few tricks." In the future, Presley is looking forward to "being able to further my skill set and ice skate for fun with my friends."

- Presley Behrens, 9



"The achievement I have accomplished is earning the highest rank of the scouting program of Eagle Scout. I have earned this achievement by going through all the six other ranks of the program. I had to do many projects, and earn lots of service hours through community service. The most challenging thing I went through was staying motivated. This honor means a lot to me, for it took hard work and dedication to earn it."

- Jackson Hansen, 12



"Right now, I really like Adele. I never cared too much for her before, or even really knew much about her, but I've been in love with her songs recently."
- Ashlynn Canfield, Senior



"I would say, right now, my favorite artist is SZA because her music is amazing, and her voice is like heaven."
- Brooklynn Farrance, Senior



"Dan + Shay because they have really good music."
- Sarah Stevanovic, Senior



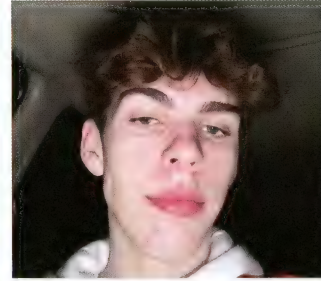
"I'd, for sure, have to go with Shawn Mendes. He makes songs that you can cry to in the shower and scream to in the car. Although I can't really relate to his songs about heartbreak, they make me feel like I've been through one, too."
- Johnnie Teague, Senior



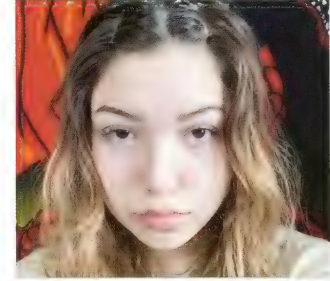
"Harry Styles, not just because of his looks and amazing music, but because of how kind he is, and all the life, energy, and love he's full of. He's definitely an amazing person to look up to."
- Kara Baumunk, Junior



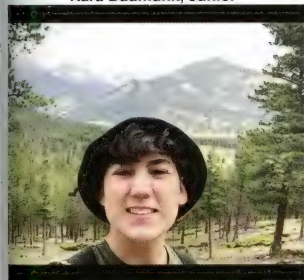
"I have so many, but probably David Bowie because his music represents a different type of creativity. He didn't try to filter his personality or his appearance. His songs speak for people who didn't have a voice in society, especially at that time."
- Heaven Myers, Junior



"My favorite artist is Billie Eilish. Her voice is angelic, and she writes about real problems that people go through every day. She's also very gorgeous."
- Drew Jarding, Junior



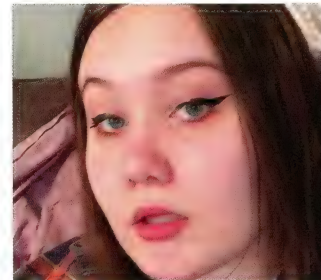
"SZA because she's talented and ethereal."
- Rose Rocillo, Junior



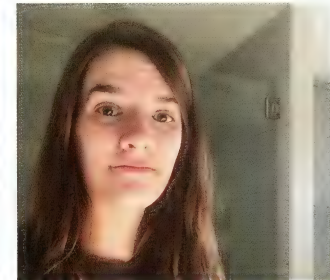
"Emmet Mulrooney because his music is very chill and laid back, but not too much."
- Carter Cupp, Sophomore



"Probably Sara, Kays. I just think her voice is really pretty."
- Molly Nesseler, Sophomore



"I really enjoy Mother Mother! I like to listen to them because the message behind their music can be interpreted in many different ways, and I think the stories behind them are interesting, and sometimes relatable."
- Grace Phares, Sophomore



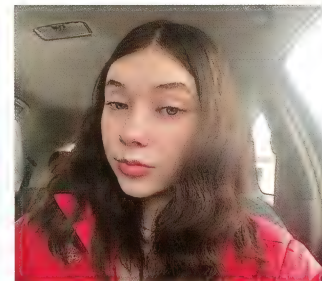
"My favorite artist is Harry Styles because his whole message is to spread positivity."
- Avery Voigt, Sophomore



"My favorite artist is Ava Max!"
- Lucette Feigley, Freshman



"If I had to pick, I would probably pick The Neighborhood. I closely relate to a lot of their songs, and I, overall, just like the vibes they give off."
- Emily Maess, Freshman



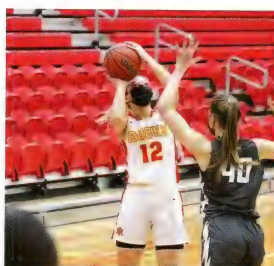
"Harry Styles, Rex Orange, and Frank Ocean because all of their music is different, so I have a song for any occasion."
- Bailey Sholl, Freshman

TEEN TUNES OF 2020-21

Balancing a New Sports Schedule



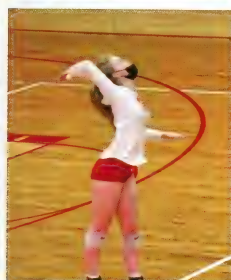
Bailey Proffitt, 11
"It can be tiring, managing multiple sports, because with the shortened season, my volleyball and softball seasons overlap, so on some days, I will be attending both sports."



Emily Allison, 11
"I'm extremely busy, but I don't necessarily mind it because I feel like it's preparing me to play sports in college."



Maricela Churchill, 10
"I was so happy and excited to hear that we were going to have seasons for volleyball and softball. Being able to do anything is the most fun I've had in awhile. I am so grateful for this opportunity!"



Campbell Kelley, 11
"It's very different. With volleyball, we usually play in the fall, and have a few months before we start the softball season, and now, we go right into softball after volleyball."



Gabiella Taber, 11
"To be honest, I haven't really felt a difference in the shortened season, but I know when the seasons end, we will be sad, but we've definitely made our season fun, so far!"



Kayla Rice, 10
"I'm very busy. Sometimes, in a day, I have 2 different practices, plus school and work. I have been trying my best, but it is stressful."



Isabella Allison, 11
"It's definitely a big change, and I am constantly busy with practices and games, but I am just glad that we finally get the opportunity to play!"



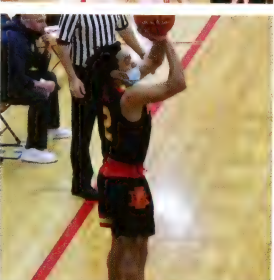
Colton Sigel, 12
"It's very challenging switching from one sport to another. Not only your body, but mentally, just a different overall feeling."



Cole Rusk, 12
"It's hard trying to continue my preparation for football, while having tons of basketball practices and games."



Kai Rios, 11
"I feel like it is the same as a normal school year because you go from one sport straight to the next. But now, we are trying to get as many games as possible for each sport in 4 months."



Jordan Rice, 12
"It has been really hard to adapt with practice and game schedules due to COVID. Immediately after one sport, I will have to bounce over to the next. That being with no off days."



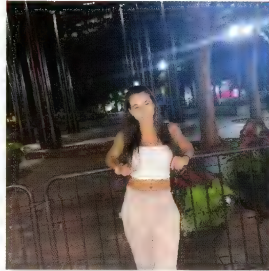
Marieon Anderson, 11
"It is a very tight schedule, and can wear you down easily, but our coaches are very understanding."

How are multi-sport athletes balancing new athletic schedules due to delayed seasons caused by COVID 19?

COVID



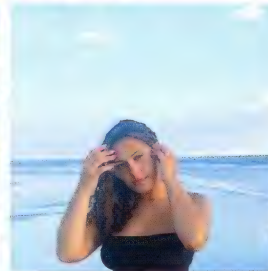
Maura Chandler
Colorado



Natalia Gabriel
Atlanta



Emma Widick
Florida



Serah Waqa
Georgia



Brooke Farrance
Florida



Isaiah Kerr
Florida



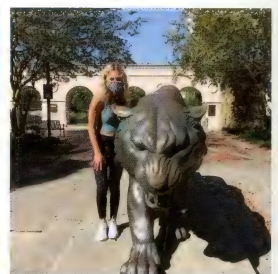
Caitlin Sodeman
Florida



Lainey Benson
Florida



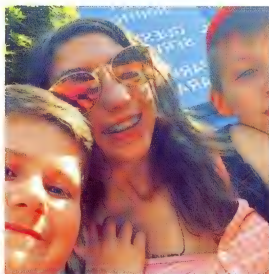
Madsion Keever
Mexico



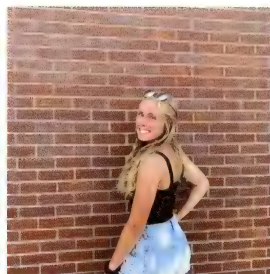
Avery Brandt
Louisiana



Emily Pearson
Texas



Tabitha Ashpaugh
Tennessee



Isabella Allison
Tennessee



Sentia Nishimwe
Arizona



Sage Oviatt
Starved Rock

VACATIONS

Even during the pandemic, Rocky students were able to make some COVID safe trips to see new places outside of the Quad Cities.

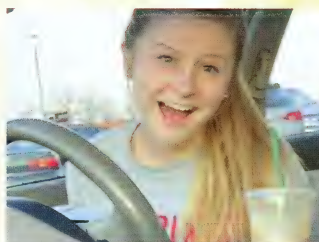
@t Home BOPS

Beverages



"I try to drink a strawberry banana smoothie every day to start my morning. It's really good and healthy."

Kyle Gant, 12



"I am obsessed with iced coffee, and it's the only thing that can get me through all of my classes and out of bed."

Ella Munday, 11



"Gatorade Glacier Freeze is my favorite beverage to drink because it has a flavor that I enjoy, and I do not find it too filling. Also, I associate this with sports, which may give me a subconscious bias towards the drink."

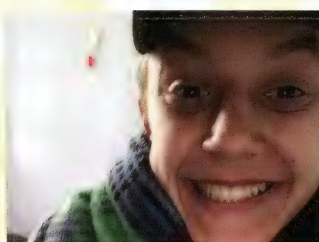
Asa Mahn, 9

Online Objects



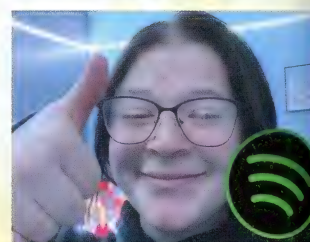
"Donuts are my necessity because they taste good and help me stay motivated for school."

Asia Stern, 9



"Well, it's a blanket. And, it just calms me down, and I feel better the more comfortable I am."

Nate Gottcent, 10



"My favorite online object is Spotify because it is just great."

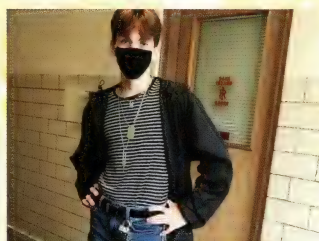
Justice Lockhart, 12

Photogenic Fashion



"I love wearing comfy clothes because it helps me stay motivated for school."

Hannah Close, 12



"I'm wearing chains and dark skinny jeans with a black jacket."

Drew Jarding, 11



"This is one of my favorite outfits to wear during online school. I'm able to leave my house in it, if needed, but also being comfy is key."

Lauren Gant, 10

Snacks



"Pretzels because they're easy to eat the whole bag in a few days."

Carter Cupp, 10



"I eat rice all day, every day, so at this point, it's a habit. Plus, it's banging, and just hits different. Now, it's like I can't do my work until I know I've eaten rice with a side dish."

Brigitte Pendeza, 11



"I like eating cereal because then I don't have to eat breakfast."

Jacob Voigt, 12



Jordan Rice, 12

2☆☆2☆☆

Your



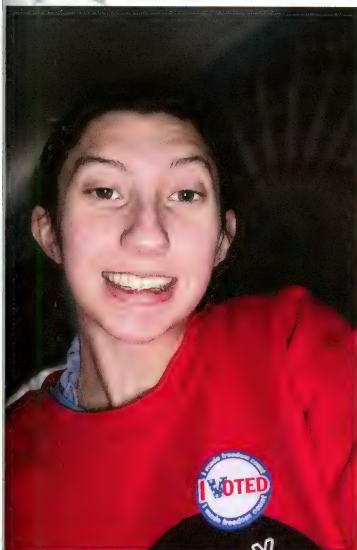
Jonathan Knuth, 12



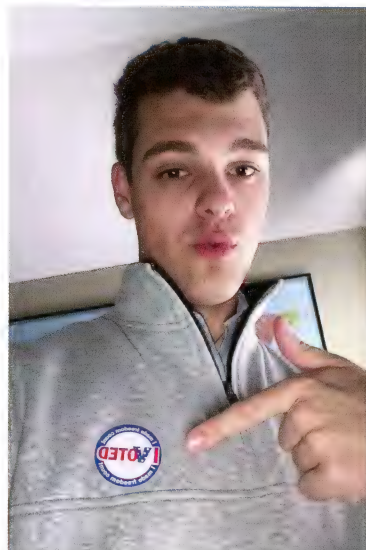
Vote



Counts



Tabitha Ashpaugh, 12



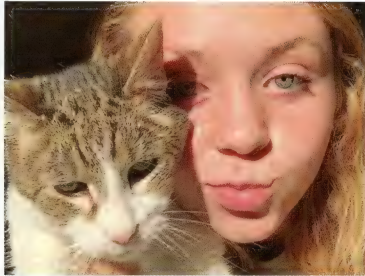
Calvin Banks, 12



Emma Widick, 12

Exercising the right to vote is very important to many people in our nation. Many seniors were excited to vote in their first election. This election was certainly one that was historic, too! Emma Widick states that, "The most exciting thing about voting for the first time was being able to use my voice for what I believe in!" Jonathan Knuth says, "I enjoyed voting with my siblings for the first time." These young adults made their voices heard and will continue to in future elections.

Rocks and Their Unique Pets

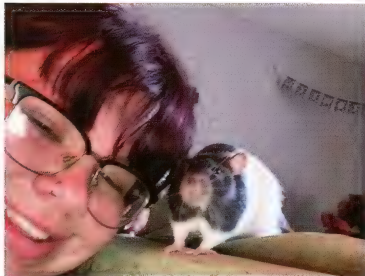
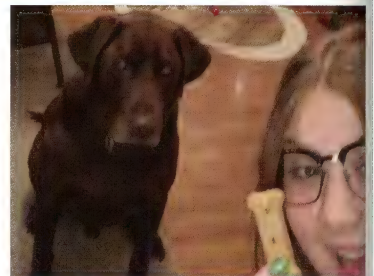


Emily Allison:

"His name is Mr. Kitty and we got him as a charity case. He's also deaf!"

Alaina Esposito:

"He has a tumor on his shoulder that he can't feel because it's extra storage for fat."

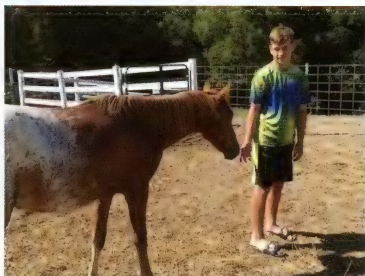
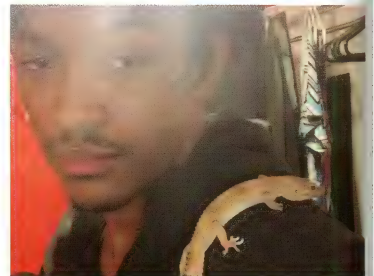


Chloe Killian:

"One of them is really smart."

Baker Beal:

"Citrus is a small gecko, and if you pull his tail, it'll fall off."

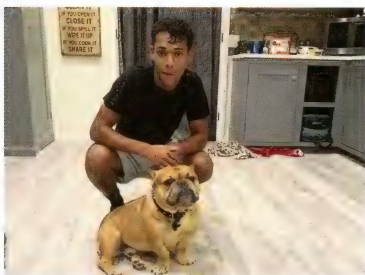
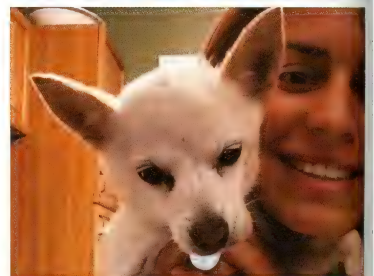


Xander George:

"They're uncommon in the Quad Cities."

Sydney Quinones:

"He's been a part of our family for 11 years, and he wears diapers around the house."

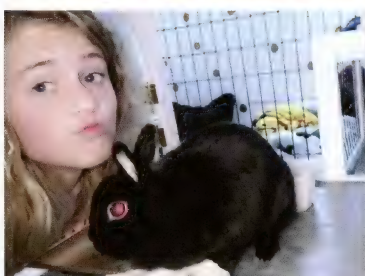
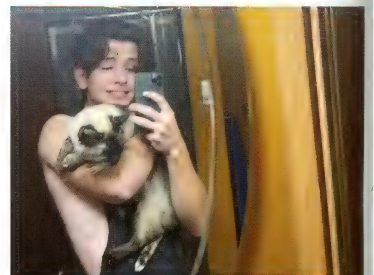


Isaiah Kerr:

"What's unique about my dog is he can jump really high for how small he is."

Kenneth Thompson:

"She acts like a dog."

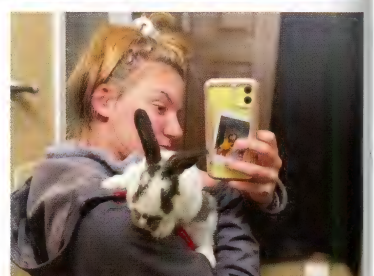


Taylor Pannell:

"She wears diapers and hops around the house."

Gabriella Taber:

"He is super nice and cuddly, and loves to eat carrots."

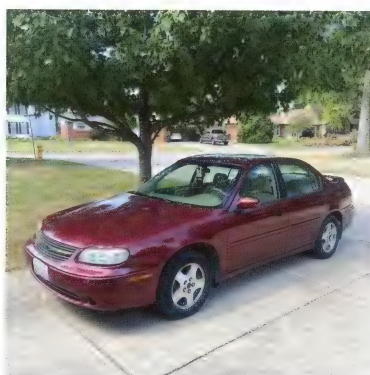


Rocks on the Road



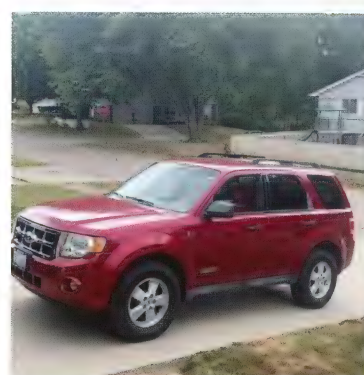
Cassidy DeMeyer:

"My car's name is Sue. She has had a few Atomic drinks spilled on her."



Colton Sigel:

"My car's name is Margi, and it's the best car to ever be made."



Emily Allison:

"My car's name is Clifford. It's a hand me down from my brother."



Emma Widick:

"My car's name is Josie, and a fun fact is she never has a full tank of gas."



Madison Chastain:

"My car's name is Keith. He's an oldie, but a goodie! You'll hear him from miles away."



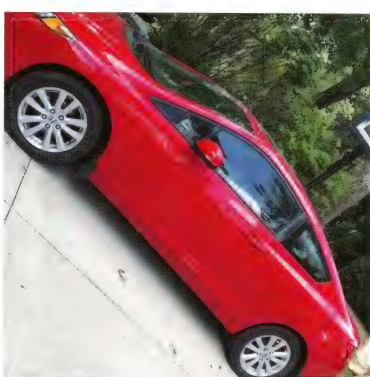
Jonathan Knuth:

"Her name is Sandy, and she always has a wheelchair powerlift in the trunk."



Hannah Close:

"My car's name is Ronnie, and she is unique."



Kelly Canning:

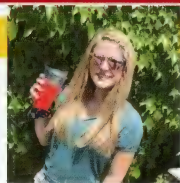
"My car's name is Cece, and she's only got 2 doors."



Maura Chandler:

"My car's name is Pearl, and she glows in the sun after her washes."

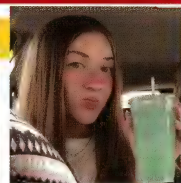
COFFEE IN THE QC



Ella Munday
The Mustang
Cody Road



Mikhaila Sherrard
Pink Drink
Starbucks



Olivia Sholl
M-Bomb
Awake



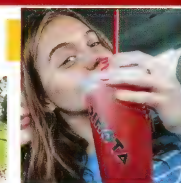
Ava Rohr
Awake



Lucette Feigley
Smores Frappe
QC Fuel



Ashlie Heggen
Sunny Day
Atomic



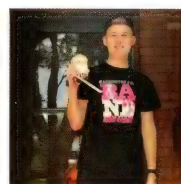
Lily DeRudder
All The Reds
Atomic



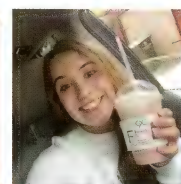
Alaina Muller
White Mocha
Starbucks



Bailey Sholl
M-Bomb
Awake



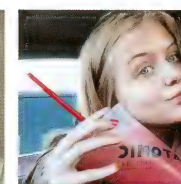
Logan Newberry
Smores Blended
Cream QC Fuel



Georgi Feigley
Strawberry
Cheesecake



Grace Phares
Sweet Tarts
Awake

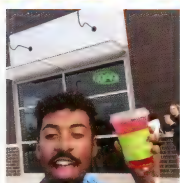
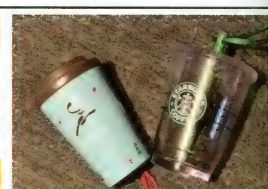


Brooke Farrance
Pink
Atomic

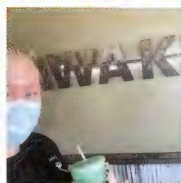


Lynzie Heggen
Sunny Day
Atomic

ROCKS RUN ON CAFFEINE



Avery Donaldson
Coffee Hound



Anna Vermeire
Awake



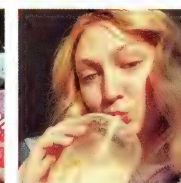
Emma Widick
Atomic



Sarah Stevanovic
Cody Road



Ashlynn Canfield
Atomic



Lauren Weeks
McDonalds



Savannah
Harding
Atomic

Rocky Baristas

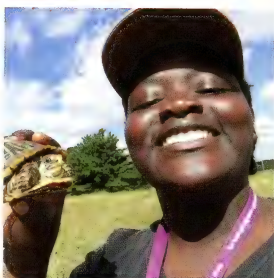


Phoebe Fuller is a junior, and she started working at QC Fuel back in August. She did not work before the pandemic, which has definitely impacted the food service industry. "If there is ever downtime, we spend it cleaning or stocking items," Fuller explains.



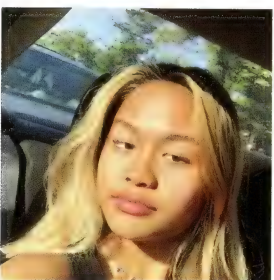
Ella Spence is a senior, and she has worked at the Starbucks that is inside of Hy-Vee. She has worked there for three years, stating, "I love making flat Whites and hot espresso drinks." With COVID-19, now they have to follow more guidelines. "We are wearing masks, frequently washing our hands, sanitizing everything, and have glass barriers at the register," she states.

E-Culture Shock



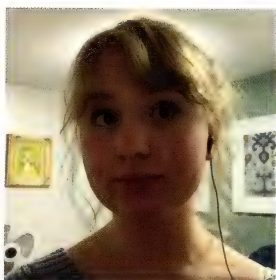
Itangishatse Bujeni is but one of many students affected by COVID-19, and the transition to remote-learning. Her final year at Rock Island High School is encumbered by a laptop, an uncertain future, and a complicated relationship with academia. "Learning in any environment always has a level of difficulty," says Bujeni. "I knew this would not be any different." Although e-Learning has its issues and difficulties, whether it be slow internet connections or a microphone echo, Bujeni tries to look on the bright side. "I really try to stay positive," she says. "It's a hard time for everyone, and e-learning is something we're lucky to be able to do. It's a safe option that some don't have right now."

Say Say loves school, so naturally, e-Learning has not been her favorite academic development. "I have really never felt this low, mentally," she says. "I loved going to school and taking AP classes in person. It was a challenge, yes, but now, it can become hard for me, at times, to keep up." Say also believes e-Learning will affect the future of her education, saying, "E-Learning will negatively impact" her for college. "Even though colleges have been stating that they will keep in mind the discrepancies that will come about through modified ways of learning, and that they won't let it affect their admission decision, I just don't buy it," Say explains.

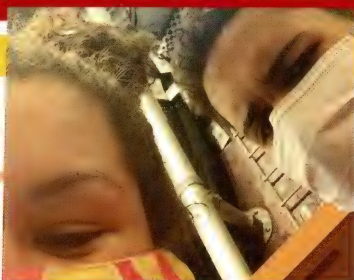


Kyi Man's relationship with education has changed a lot since the last school year. Due to the switch to online-learning, Man has found herself in an odd position with her academic life. "It has given me a new challenge," she says. "Although, it has also impacted me in a negative way," she states. "It became much more difficult to understand concepts in certain classes." Man also believes that she is not "fully part of the classroom," because of remote-learning. Though Man has encountered difficulties, she does believe e-Learning has changed her life for the better, as well. "It will help me be prepared for any situation," Man states, attempting to remain on the positive side of a tough situation.

Mariela DeMeyer is honestly pretty satisfied with online-learning. She has adapted well to her new learning environment, saying, "It feels a lot less stressful to be learning at home, than at school." DeMeyer is currently a sophomore at Rocky, and finds herself in a positive attitude when it comes to the future of her high school career. "E-Learning has actually been a better alternative for me than traditional school, and my mental health is in a better place than it would be at school," she says.



Lauren Groene's first year at Rock Island High School is much different than the freshmen of years' past. Groene feels that online-learning has actually lowered her stress levels and boosted her motivation, saying, "I'm not stressed, and I'm on top of my work. I don't find myself distracted either, which is something I'm good at." Unlike many upperclassmen, Groene isn't as worried about how e-Learning will affect her college career. Right now, she is more concerned about getting through high school, although she does miss her friends. "Not being able to have my friends with me constantly to comfort me has taken quite a toll on me," she says, "but has also made me more independent."



Mallory Day & Joshua Briggs



Francisca Ibarra



Camryn Milefchik



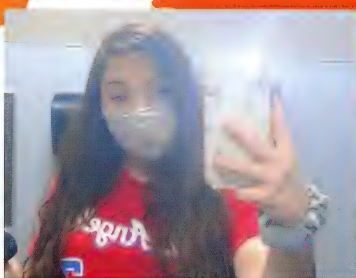
Mariyah McQueen



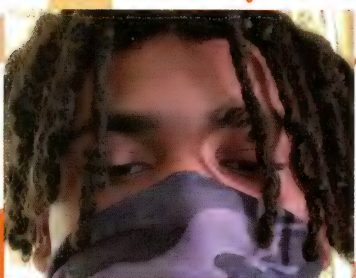
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Colby Dyer



Haley Waffle



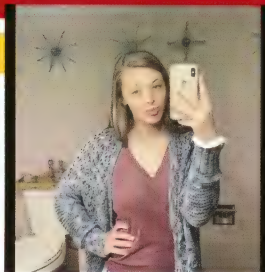
Devin Swift

WHO'S BEHIND THE MASK

While every year there is a new fashionable item, masks were not something that Rocky students thought that they would ever have to wear each day. RI students are styling and showing out their favorite masks, which can sometimes make it hard to recognize each other! At Rocky, the protection of students is very important. Students and staff alike must wear masks during the school day. All students wear different types and designs of masks. Some are plain colors, others are flowered, rainbow, and some support political views, favorite sports teams, movies, trends, and more. While it may be hard to tell who is behind the mask, each mask certainly can tell a lot about who wears it.



"I had Antonio, my brother, and he was very, very smart and good at the arts, but very enclosed within himself and his friend group. With me, I'm not that bright, and I'm into all the school's athletics, and my social game is way opposite of his because he was anti-social."
- Avery Donaldson



"My sister put lots of time into her social life and hanging with her friends. I put more time into my academics and athletics. My sister participated in JROTC and the chess club while in high school, and I'm in softball, volleyball, and student council."
- Cassidy DeMeyer



"Me- I am usually non-stop moving with different sports/activities, and COVID-19 has canceled a lot of them or had a lot of restrictions, or guidelines on them. Karen Stevanovic- I wasn't in many sports or activities during my senior year."
- Sarah Stevanovic



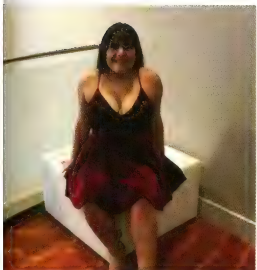
"My mom was completely different from me. My mom was more outspoken, the class clown, she made friends easy, especially older friends, and she liked to hang out with her friends, and have fun during school. I don't speak sometimes. I have some friends, but not as many."
- JaRaya Carr



"We both did marching band, but she was in color guard, and I play the saxophone. She wasn't as worried about school, but I am. We were both not super social!"
- MaKayla Jones



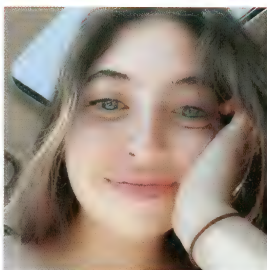
Just Like You: **ROCKY** Legacy



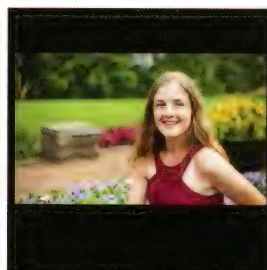
"My mom spoke Spanish and I don't. She stuck to herself in high school, but I've had groups of friends, so I'd say I'm more social. She was more bold and crazy than I am though, but in academics, we both would be average students. She played basketball and I did cheer."
- Natalia Salazar



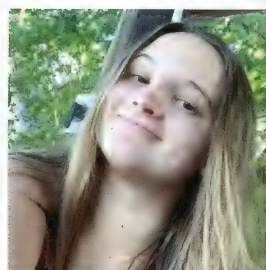
"My mom was outgoing, and went to many events and games like me."
- Maura Chandler



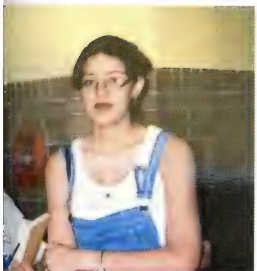
"My mom was more outgoing than me, and she wasn't as focused as me in school. I'm more on the shy side, and I'm okay with having a small friend group. I focus more on my schoolwork."
- Abbi Rasmussen



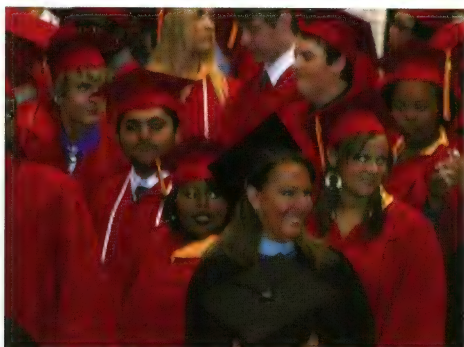
"She took more advanced classes, and she was in the top 10 of her class. My sister and I are very similar when it comes to high school."
- Erin Teggatz



"He was a really good tennis player, and he was excited to be on his own. He was going to go to college on a tennis scholarship, but he decided to go to the Air Force. I do swimming and soccer."
- Haylie Roos



Lillis Legacy



Mrs. Michelle Lillis is leaving the Rock. After being a mainstay in the building since 1996, Lillis will start her well earned retirement in the summer of 2021.

Lillis started her career as a math teacher at Washington Junior High in 1986. In 1996, she moved up to the high school. During her time at Rocky, she has held many titles, including, math teacher, math department head, dean, assistant principal, and lastly, Rocky's Athletic Director. She has also coached junior high cross country and track, junior high cheerleading, junior high basketball, freshman basketball, and served as the head coach of the girls track team (where she won the first ever State Championship for a female sport) and high school cross country teams. She explains that her proudest moment in her many, many roles at the Rock is, "All the great young people I have had the honor to teach/coach or mentor. Selfishly, I will never be able to equal the feeling of coaching a State Championship team. I'm so proud to have worked with such great young people throughout my career."



Lillis also made history as Rocky's first female AD, as well as the first female AD in the WB6 Conference. During her time as AD, Rocky athletics saw many improvements and additions. Some of those accomplishments include, "Upgrading the facilities, summer strength and conditioning for all athletes, fundraiser and EXPY awards to bring in alumni, free athletic passes for athletes, \$15 athletic passes for non-athletes, getting more kids involved, an Athletic Dept. Facebook page, and Athlete of the Month. All of these things were achieved, along with instituting a one time fee for all athletes (they no longer have to pay for each sport), updating the paperwork process for coaches and athletes (all are available online), a new video scoreboard for the stadium, and new scoreboards for the baseball and softball fields, re-instituted study table (academic help for athletes), and new seating in the Field House," Lillis explains.



Despite her incredible record of improvements, and glass ceiling breaking role as our first female AD, Lillis remains humble about her time. She states, "I felt honored and ready for the challenge. I don't really think about it much. I set out every day with a plan to do the best job I can, and to provide the greatest opportunities for every student athlete. If I have, during that time, helped others to see that a good person/good worker can accomplish great things, beyond the stereotypes people have about what kind of person normally has been in this position, I feel I have accomplished something."



While Lillis is leaving the halls of the Rock for the last time this summer, her impact will certainly still be felt long after her exit. Whether that is through the facilities she helped upgrade, the new teams she helped start, her role as a teacher, coach, or administrator, or just those who she mentored, Rocky is a better place because of her work here. She stated, "Each role I have filled has brought me joy. Any time, I can say, at the end of day, I helped someone, I feel complete and joy." Lillis has certainly done that during her time here.

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To Our Readers:

The yearbook you are reading was created by a staff of 40 juniors and seniors, and one adviser during a global pandemic. We made every attempt to produce an error free book, with all names spelled correctly. However, it is possible that we have made errors.

We made every attempt to create the best possible yearbook to accurately show what this year was like for Rocky students and staff. For most the first semester, we created this yearbook remotely. We worked through scheduled, and then rescheduled school picture days, where we kept students socially distanced. We let students submit their own selfies for their yearbook pictures for the first time ever through Google Classroom, as well as utilize past school pictures. We worked to include all Rocky students through as many means as possible. Any exclusions were not intentional.

In second semester, the staff adjusted to new schedules for in person learning, while some students stayed remote to finish their yearbook assignments. We used Google Classroom, email, texting, and every social media app available to collect interviews. We adjusted to very different athletic and music schedules to cover our students. Through these methods and tools, we hope we captured what this different school year was like for students each day. Our students and staff adapted to many changes this year to still be able to participate in sports, the arts, and even just to walk the halls of Rock Island High School. Without a doubt, this year is one that students will remember forever. This yearbook truly captures a unique year in RIHS history.

Thank you to all of the Rocky students, parents, families, and friends who helped us with pictures of this incredibly different school year. You captured history, and we are grateful for your willingness to contribute to the yearbook. Thank you to the Rocky students and staff who continually answered the yearbook staff's interview questions through social media, email, and Google Classroom. We appreciate your participation. As a yearbook adviser, thank you to the yearbook staff. You worked so hard during such a difficult year to put together this book. You chased down interviews and searched for every opportunity to tell a story that showcased what this year was like. I'm so proud of you.

Please read this yearbook with patience and understanding. We did our best. We worked hard. We hope you enjoy looking back on a year unlike any Rocky has ever seen before. To see a more detailed explanation of this year's yearbook creation process, scan this QR code.



- Ms. Miers & the Watchtower Staff



